THE NEW
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Workers set up tents at the Vila Belmiro Stadium, the home of the Santos FC where Pele played most of his career, in Santos on Sunday | AP

AILING PELE'S FAMILY SPENDS CHRISTMAS EVE BY BEDSIDE

Son Edinho was the latest to arrive to be by his father. Edinho arrived on Saturday after denying that he would go to hospital..

MESSAGE FROM DAUGHTER KELY

Shortly after midnight local time, Kely Nascimento, Pele's daughter, posted a picture. It had Marcia Aoli and other family members gathered at the Albert Einstein Hospital where he is being treated. Pele wasn't visible in the image. "Almost all of us. Merry Christmas. Gratitude, love, union, family. The essence of Christmas. We thank you all for all the love and light you send us," she wrote

CONDITION WORSENING IN HOSPITAL

- On Wednesday, the hospital announced Pele's colon cancer was showing "progression" and he needed "more extensive care to treat kidney and heart failure"
- He was hospitalized on Nov 29 for what his medical team called a re-evaluation of his chemotherapy treatments

THREE
NO OF WORLD CUPS PELE WON WITH BRAZIL, THE ONLY PLAYER TO DO SO

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

FESTIVE LIGHTS

After two years of muted festivities due to Covid, crowds thronged churches across the country this Christmas on Sunday for special prayers. In the picture, a girl offers prayers at the Infant Jesus Church in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

NEPAL'S PRACHANDA JUMPS SHIP, APPOINTED NEW PRIME MINISTER

To take oath today; forms new alliance with Oli as deal with Deuba hits rough weather

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

ON a day of high drama, CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was appointed the new prime minister of Nepal after he broke away from the Nepal Congress-led coalition and embracing his sworn enemy K P Sharma Oli, who heads the CPN-UML. Prachanda, 68, will take his oath of office and secrecy on Monday.

The former Maoist guerrilla's appointment capped weeks of intense power struggle within the ruling alliance after last month's general elections failed to produce a clear winner.

Since President Bidya Devi Bhandari had set a 5 pm deadline on Sunday to end the political stalemate, Prachanda staked his claim at 4 pm to form the new government with the support of 168 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Gave up armed struggle in 2006

Prachanda led an armed struggle from 1996 to 2006 that ended with signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006 and him joining the political mainstream

However, the new axis, called the Balkot coalition, will be inherently unstable as Oli's is the biggest party in the grouping with 78 representatives as against Prachanda's 32. This would be Prachanda's third tenure as PM.

The deal to form the Balkot coalition was clinched at a meeting at Oli's residence. It comprises CPN-UML with 78 members of Parliament, CPN-MC 32, RSP 20, RPP 14, JSP 12, Janamat 6 and Nagarik Unmukti Party 3.

The new government will be a cause of concern for India as many members of the Balkot coalition like Oli are anti-India. All major projects India slated to develop in Nepal could be delayed, if not put on hold.

Sources said China had encouraged all Left wing parties to bury the hatchet and forge a coalition to capture power.

Nepal Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba and Prachanda had earlier reached an understanding to lead the new government on a rotational basis. While Prachanda wanted to be the prime minister in the first round, Deuba refused to yield, hence the former left the alliance.

"One of the major tasks for new prime minister Prachanda will include striking a balance between India and China," said former Nepalese Ambassador Vijay Kant Karna.

As prime minister last year while facing a revolt from coalition partner Prachanda, Oli had redrawn Nepal's political map by incorporating three key Indian territories — Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura — in order to divert attention.

CAG FLAGS RISK OF DATA TAMPERING IN UPDATED ASSAM NRC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has detected large-scale anomalies in the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

In its report of 2020 submitted to the state Assembly on Saturday, the CAG said 215 software utilities were added in a haphazard manner to the core software used for updating the document.

The report said a secure software was needed for the updation but due process was not followed either for the development of software or the selection of vendors. The report said the 'improper' software development, related to data capture and correction, left room for data tampering. The report further said the project cost of ₹288.18 crore escalated to ₹1,602.66 crore due to time overrun.

Over 19 lakh of the 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the NRC's "complete draft" published on August 31, 2018. It was updated when Prateek Hajela, an IAS officer, was its coordinator. He is now serving outside the state.

Hitesh Dev Sarma, who succeeded Hajela, later filed two FIRs with the CID of police and the Vigilance and Anti-corruption Wing against the latter alleging corruption and money laundering.

Sarma on Sunday said he stood vindicated. "I had filed two FIRs... (but) the government did not register the cases. Now that the CAG has detected the anomalies, there cannot be any hurdles in registering the two cases," said Sarma, who attained superannuation in July. "The government should order re-verification to ensure the names of Indians who were left out are included and those of the foreigners deleted," he added.

DODGY SOFTWARE?

Updating of the 1951 NRC for Assam was done following a Supreme Court order, in order to detect illegal citizens who had entered the state after March 25, 1971

The final NRC list released in August 2019 had left out 19 lakh of the 3.3 crore applicants on suspicion of their claims as Indian citizens

The CAG says a highly secure software should have been developed but instead, 215 software utilities were added in a haphazard manner to the core software

This created room for data tampering in the NRC updatation process, according to the CAG

The initial project cost was estimated at ₹288.18 crore when the NRC updation process had commenced in December 2014

But project cost escalated to ₹1,602.66 crore by the time the final draft of the document was published in August 2019

The CAG audit also revealed irregularities in the utilisation of funds including "excess and inadmissible payment to vendors"

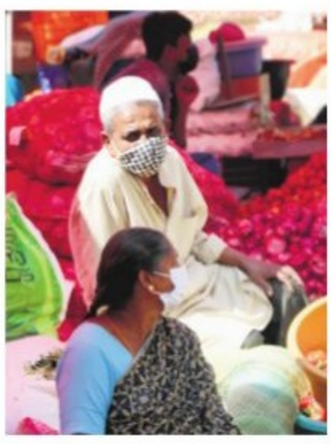
CM's meet on Covid norms today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the Omicron subvariant that is causing havoc in China detected in India, the state government is likely to frame Covid guidelines ahead of the New Year's Eve celebrations.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is holding a meeting in Belagavi on Monday with Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, Revenue Minister R Ashoka and members of the Technical Advisory Committee on Covid. Ashoka, also the minister for disaster management, however, ruled out any severe restrictions on New Year celebrations and on travel.

"The Centre has already given us several instructions and the state government will take a decision based on them," Bommai said in Bengaluru. He stressed that the decision will take international repercussions into consideration.



Last week, the state government decided to make wearing of masks compulsory in closed spaces. Authorities also instructed mandatory tests for those with symptoms of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). Ashoka said the state is unlikely to see a lockdown or other severe restrictions. "We don't want to trigger panic among the public. We want to ensure that precautionary measures are taken. Rules like wearing masks will be back, especially indoors and in air-conditioned halls," he said.

Asked if instructions would not queer the holiday mood of the people, Ashoka said the government is only testing international travellers who are landing in Karnataka. "There will be no restrictions on travelling within the state or country as the situation is not that bad," he added.

The meeting on Monday is likely to discuss preparations and ramping up of infrastructure, like oxygen beds, ICUs, medicines and other facilities.

If war breaks out, India has to fight China & Pak: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ON a day when China's foreign minister Wang Yi said China is willing to work with India to improve relations, the Congress released a video of party leader Rahul Gandhi warning of a larger war in which Beijing and Islamabad will join hands to defeat India.

On Sunday, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said his country is committed to maintaining communication with India to ensure border stability.

In the video released on Sunday, Rahul warned that India will be in an 'extremely vulnerable position' in the event of a war. "Earlier we had two enemies — China and Pakistan — and our policy was to keep them separate. Today, there is one front that is China and Pakistan. If war happens, it will happen with both. They are working together not only militarily but also economically," Rahul says during an interaction with Army veterans.

He said China and Pakistan are both gearing up to 'surprise' India. "Which is why I keep repeating the government cannot keep quiet. The government should tell people what happened at the border." Warning that there will be major loss for India if a war breaks out, he said the government's mindset is not of joint operability and of cyber warfare. "India is now extremely vulnerable... If we don't act fast, there'll be a big loss. I'm extremely concerned with what's happening at the border in Arunachal and Ladakh," he added.

SURATHKAL MURDER

Cuffs on 5, CM promises fair investigation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

FIVE persons, including two women, were taken into custody by the Mangaluru city police in connection with the murder of **Abdul Jaleel**, 45, who was a store owner in Katipalla 4th Block, near Surathkal on Saturday night.

The police suspect Jaleel's alleged closeness to a couple of women enraged some people who attacked and killed him.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai sought the cooperation of people in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Katipalla by not heeding to any rumours regarding Jaleel's murder, and said the police will conduct a fair investigation.

Jaleel was reportedly close to a woman, which led to a heated exchange between him and two other men on Saturday night. When the assailants attacked him, Jaleel tried to escape, but slipped and fell, and was stabbed to death. P3

The New Indian Express looks back at various sectors in 2022 that have dominated news |P4

Hearing on bail applications of eight former Naval officers in Doha today

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FOUR months since eight former Indian naval officers were placed under solitary confinement in Doha, their petitions for bail will come up for hearing on Monday.

This is their fifth attempt at securing bail. The officers were working for Dahra Global Technologies & Consultancy Services in Doha when they were picked up by Qatar's interior ministry. No charges have been framed against them yet though those with families in Doha are allowed to have weekly physical meetings with them. However, families of officers who are in India have not been granted visas to meet them.

"Family members of some of the detained officers have been trying to get visas from Qatar for sometime now. During to the FIFA World Cup, there was a caveat that those applying for visas to Qatar had to buy a ticket for matches in Doha. Since these family members were not interested in a football match ticket, they were denied visas. Now that the World Cup is over there is optimism that visas would be granted soon," say sources.

The officers, however, are allowed a 10-minute phone call every week with their families in India.

"Families back home are stressed with the delay in the repatriation of these officers. These eight Indians are amongst the top ranking officials working for the company. A representative of the company (Dahra) does check on them regularly but families are waiting for news of their return," sources add.

All hopes are pinned on Monday's bail appeal. The Indian fraternity and families are hoping that they will get relief this time around.

EXPRESS READ

Expect light rain today

Bengaluru: Bengalureans, who headed out on Sunday, were in for a surprise as the city witnessed light rain in the afternoon and night. According to IMD's local report, the city on Sunday recorded a minimum temperature of 18 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 25. IMD has predicted light rain on Monday too.

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Janardhana Reddy forms 'secular' political party

Bengaluru: Ending suspense, former minister Gali Janardhana Reddy on Sunday announced the launch of his political outfit, Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPP) and declared that he will contest from the Gangavathi | P4

3 NGOs suspend work in Af after Taliban fiat

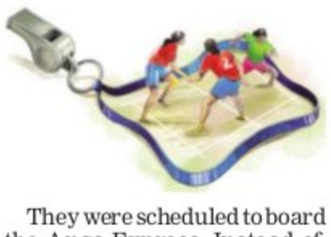
Kabul: Three major international aid groups — Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE — on Sunday suspended their operations in Afghanistan following Taliban's order banning women from working at NGOs | P9

Train mess: Kabaddi team stands for hrs to get seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNDER-16 Kabaddi players from the state, participating in the Sub-Junior National Championship in Jamshedpur, missed their train due to confusion over the boarding station and had to wait for a long time at the Yesvantpur railway station before taking another train that was packed with passengers.

As they did not get seats, the group of 12 boys and 12 girls had to stand in the passage, and some near the toilet, for a few hours.



They were scheduled to board the Anga Express. Instead of waiting for it at the Sir MV terminal, they were directed to the Yesvantpur station because of miscommunication from the Karnataka Kabaddi Association and team managers.

Team manager Sanjeev Masalji and coach Anand Basvaraj assumed that the train would depart from the Yesvantpur station. Masalji said, "During the booking or afterwards, we never knew that the train would leave from the Sir MV terminal. For years, Anga Express has been departing from Yesvantpur station."

The association too did not give them the right information. "Later, we booked another train, Prasanthi Express, which was packed. For a long time, the students could not get seats and had to remain standing, waiting near the toilet. Only after a few passengers alighted, some adjustments were made and they were provided seats," the manager said.

The incident has left the children exhausted, Masalji said.

We booked another train, Prasanthi Express, which was packed. For a long time, the students could not get seats and had to remain standing, waiting near the toilet.

Team manager Sanjeev Masalji

CONTINUED ON : P2

7-yr-old electrocuted on Mysuru school premises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A seven-year-old boy was electrocuted on the premises of Sri Morarji Desai Model Residential School in Nanjangud on Sunday.

The police said that the boy, Navin, died after accidently touching a live electric wire that had fallen on the ground. He is the son of the school's physical education teacher Basavanna.

The incident occurred when he was filling water into a bottle at the school dining hall.

Though the child was rushed to the Krishna Hospital in Nanjangud, the doctors declared him brought dead. The body was later shifted to taluk hospital for postmortem. DySP Govindharaju and PSI Arathi visited the spot and collected details.

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 26/12/2022 • Year: Shubhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrutheeya 9.19 am • Nakshatra: Shravana 9.54 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 19°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST: Breaks of sun late

Sunrise 6.39 am | Sunset 6.01 pm | Moonrise 9.31 am | Moonset 9.17 pm

Metro safety: Sadahalli Jn to see overpass

Project to cost Rs 38 crore, will ensure seamless traffic to and from the airport

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE proposal to build a vehicular underpass (VHU) on the main road leading to the Kempegowda International Airport by the National Highway Authority of India has been changed. There will now be a vehicular overpass at a cost of Rs 38 crore to avoid any problems to the Metro line in the area. This project at the Sadahalli Junction, 7 km from KIA, will come as a huge relief for those travelling to and from the airport, said top sources at NHAI.

The spot where NHAI has proposed a vehicular overpass to ease traffic to and from KIA | EXPRESS

"The BMRCL has agreed to our new proposal. We will go ahead with the construction in two to three months, but such projects take two years to complete. We are aiming for December 2024 deadline," said an NHAI source.

There might be no tenders and the previous contractor Athaang Infrastructure Pvt Ltd will go ahead with the job, the source added. A senior official said, "The overpass will be of a length of 500 m. It will comprise a road at the ground level which will facilitate cross traffic (from the spot to Sadahalli and in the return direction) and a level 5.5 metres below the ground." It will also ensure seamless traffic as this is the only signal on the main airport road. "The spot is often choked, and the overpass will reduce travel time to cross the junction," he said.

Another official said, "It was planned in June 2014 as an underpass with just one vent (opening). Locals began protesting and demanded a second vent. We agreed, and by January 2020, decided to accommodate two vents. However, since BMRCL's Airport Line would pass through this route, we had to redesign and change it completely."

NHAI had blocked this portion of the road over the last six years, and removed the barricading in November this year in view of the prime minister's visit to the airport. An official said the work never started as contractors repeatedly backed out stating that costs have gone up.

Material thefts at Metro sites lead to losses in lakhs

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE recent theft of gas pipeline materials at Veerannapalya Metro station on the Airport Line which stopped construction work there is not an isolated instance. There has been theft of materials at construction sites across the city, and contractors have incurred huge losses.

The thefts usually occur at nights, after which, in some cases, FIRs have also been filed.

On the Airport line stretch between Husamaranahalli and Doddajala stations, the security guards, who monitor the place at night, have been thrashed and construction materials stolen. "Pipes, reinforcement material and staging pipes which are required for erection work of piers go missing often, resulting in losses of Rs 10 lakhs so far," said a source.

There was also a threat to public safety, which worries them more. "The nails used to fasten the barricades too are sometimes removed. A barricade board weighing 172 kg falling on a motorist or pedestrian passing through the road will be a major accident for which we would be held responsible," he explained. The presence of security guards has been bolstered to 45 personnel who work in two shifts, another source said.

More security personnel have been deployed between IAF Yelahanka and Doddajala to keep a close watch on construction materials | EXPRESS

A source at another Metro site said that BMRCL will not compensate them as safeguarding of material is the responsibility of the contractor. "Welding material, diesel-generator batteries which have a market value of Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000, batteries used to power earth movers as well as hydrant machines are being stolen at both Tin Factory and Mahadevapura stations. Power tools and head cutters kept inside tool boxes too are broken into and stolen. The loss is more than Rs 15 lakh so far," he said.

Another person, who is familiar with the developments, said that during lunch, groups of women walking together just pick up materials and conceal them in their bags. "I have caught them and warned them but it continues. I have handed over a few men to the police too," he added.

Miscreants come on two-wheelers, brandish knives and flee with the material. "It is quite dangerous as we work through nights."

Two senior Metro officials said they are aware of such thefts taking place.

DIVINE AND INNOCENT

A toddler touches the crib at the Infant Jesus Church on Christmas Day in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Peenya bus terminus may become e-depot

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

AFTER multiple attempts to revive the Basaveshwara Bus Terminus at Peenya, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is mulling converting it into a depot for electric buses.

The terminus built over six acres of land at a cost of around ₹40 crore in 2014, was supposed to ease the traffic at Majestic Bus Stand by shifting all the buses plying towards North Karnataka to Peenya terminus.

However, as there was no patronage from people, KSRTC stopped operating buses from the terminal and it turned idle. To boost connectivity to idle terminal, BMRCL made an attempt to construct a metro station next to the terminal but later dropped the idea as it was not economically viable.

A KSRTC official said, "For all intra-state and inter-state buses, Majestic was the main bus stand. As the traffic at Majestic was turning out to be chaotic, KSRTC shifted the operation of buses to South Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to Mysore Road Satellite bus stand in 2005 and later came the Shanthi Nagar bus stand. Both played a crucial role in shifting the traffic of Majestic bus stand. A similar attempt was made to shift the operations of buses heading towards North Karnataka region from Majestic to Peenya in 2014, which failed."

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Accepting that the Basaveshwara Bus Terminus at Peenya did not achieve the purpose it was meant for like the Mysore Road Satellite Bus Terminus and the Shanti Nagar Bus Terminus, KSRTC MD Anbu Kumar said, "We are exploring all possible options to utilise the bus terminal as we do not wish to keep it idle without any operations. As we are going to add more electric buses to our fleet we are exploring the options of converting the bus terminus into an electric bus depot."

KSRTC is expected to receive 50 e-buses and is expected to start its inter-city operations on six routes in Karnataka.

ADULT LITERACY PROG NEEDS GUIDANCE TO SUCCEED: EXPERTS

NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

EXPERTS are of the opinion that the central government's New India Literacy Programme (scheme for adult education) aimed at educating 5 crore adults by 2027 will only work if the students, educators and stakeholders involved are properly guided.

They recalled that similar initiative launched earlier have failed to drawbacks in implementation.

Recently, the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) launched a programme in Bengaluru, initiating the Adult Literacy Programme at the state-level. Around 8,000 private Karnataka schools were taken on board the mission in association with the Private Schools and Children Welfare Association (PSCWA).

A Bengaluru-based educationist, D Shashi Kumar said that he was not aware of the initiative. Unless the stakeholders are made aware of the initiatives, the scheme will continue to suffer from faulty implementation. Speaking about the previous initiatives, "Each One-Teach One" and "Each One-Teach Many", he said that the initiatives were not able to gain momentum and reach the masses although they were good.

H Rajendra Pai from Rotary International District 3190 said that the Rotary's initiative for total literacy and quality education, TEACH programme began in 2014 to improve adult literacy and quality education. But it did not succeed due to logistical issues. So far, 88,005 adults have received literacy certificates under the programme in eight years. Pai explained that travelling became one of the issues for students and teach people in remote areas. Hence, students were irregular in interacting with adults which led to its failure.

With the new initiative by the Rotary International, students from Class 6 to 10 are supposed to educate an adult illiterate for three months, which will be a part of their school project.

Shashi Kumar also explained that since the students are also learning, the teachers must ensure that they properly imbibe teaching skills to be able to deliver results. The project is huge and needs a large-scale involvement from society to ensure people are committed to achieving the goals.

Several announcements made: Rlys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE manager said this might hamper their performance at the championship. C Narendra, PRO, SWR, said that several trains from the Yesvantpur Station and the KSR Station were shifted to the Sir MV terminal this year to reduce the burden on these stations. Several announcements have been made on the changes over the last few months, Narendra added.

Revenue dept gave us Banashankari land: Sangha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Kendriya Upadyayara Sangha refuted the claims of Banashankari Temple authority that the sangha had illegally installed a board, and said that they have approached the Muzrai department, which told them the land was sanctioned to them by the Assistant Commissioner of Revenue Department in 1984. The agreed cost of Rs 2,31,250 at Jaraganahalli Village Survey Numbers 63/2 and 63/3 was already paid in two installments. Later the records of rights, tenancy, and crops (RTC) were issued, stating the rights belonged to sangha. Even when Bangalore Development Authority issued a notification twice for the formation of a Layout, the sangha reportedly challenged it, claiming that the right belonged to them, and the process was stopped.

"We are now being projected as land grabbers. We will show the records to establish that the land belongs to the sangha," said Nanjesh Gowda, president, Kendriya Upadhayara Sangha.

The Muzrai department officials confirmed the sangha had approached them, and they had directed the sangha to furnish all records for verification. "We will examine the documents, and then decide on the next step. At present, the boundary of the temple area in 3 acres and 26 guntas is being guarded by Muzrai officials after the controversy," said an official.

AH Basavaraju, chairman, Banashankari Temple Development Committee, contended that the sangha has come into the picture recently, but the land measuring 141 acres was donated to the government, including the temple site in Jaraganahalli village by landlords Basapp Shatter and Shankrappa Shatter in 1935. "We will also check the documents by the sangha. Now, the site is guarded," said Basavaraju.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

26TH December : Monday is the Moon's Day in all traditions from India to Iran, and the Arab World to Europe and the Americas. The Moon rules all wet things, so that includes melons, mangoes and oranges. That is why the astrological physicians of old would recommend a juicy fruit salad, especially as a remedy for fevers and hot, itchy complaints!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're known as a good social performer, which is precisely why today's planetary patterns suit you down to the ground. Lively people hold the key to your relationships, and you should take any and every opportunity to broaden your social circle. Listen to people you might once have thought were beneath you.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Professional concerns must be of paramount importance for all of you who are currently pursuing a vital working objective. Whatever your ambitions, you should see yourself as moving forward as part of a large family rather than as a solitary individual. You're not alone!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Long-distance and travel interests require attention although, from today's picture, it doesn't seem that anything is going wrong. Perhaps it will do you good to check, though. Also, give a little more space to any mystical or religious beliefs and aspirations.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Wrap up all agreements and arrangements over the coming days, although there's no real sense of urgency, even as far as money is concerned. Indeed, if someone has been pressing you to make a financial decision, you might be well advised to put the brakes on. Pause for thought.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Partnerships hold the key to your happiness today, although it does seem very likely that you are feeling resentful or even bitter. You must choose whether to face up to people who have given you a hard time, or mix only with amiable and easy-going types.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This certainly seems to be a time to keep busy but, quite aside from the inevitable work, you should put a little thought into your physical well-being. The Moon's recent relationship with Pluto suggests that this is a good moment to deal with long-standing complaints.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The overall planetary picture is still pressured, but it just so happens that what may be difficult for other people seems to be relatively easy for you. Perhaps you will gain from someone else's bad luck. If so, please see to it that they share in your good fortune.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Having put long-distance or long-term arrangements to one side, or satisfied yourself that all overseas contacts are up and running, you should then check out any outstanding legal questions and consider all the ethical issues. You need to occupy the moral high ground.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Tie up any loose ends in the financial area over the next few days - today if possible. You must realise that if you ignore any outstanding business, you could be in danger of tipping a vast amount of money down one of those mysterious black holes that appear from time to time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
It's a pleasant day for distractions like shopping, or even just plain old-fashioned window-shopping. However, on the personal note, it is quite important to make sure that everyone is absolutely clear about your thoughts, opinions and intentions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The tide of fortune flows your way today. My one concern is that you could be a little over-emotional, but then this might be no bad thing if you have been refusing to face up to certain awkward feelings. You will get nowhere by denying your desires. Instead, you need to understand them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Your mind should be at its very creative and imaginative best for another three days so, if other people have any sense, it is you to whom they should turn if they want to ask the pertinent questions and receive original answers. A romantic affair, though, could be hard work.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

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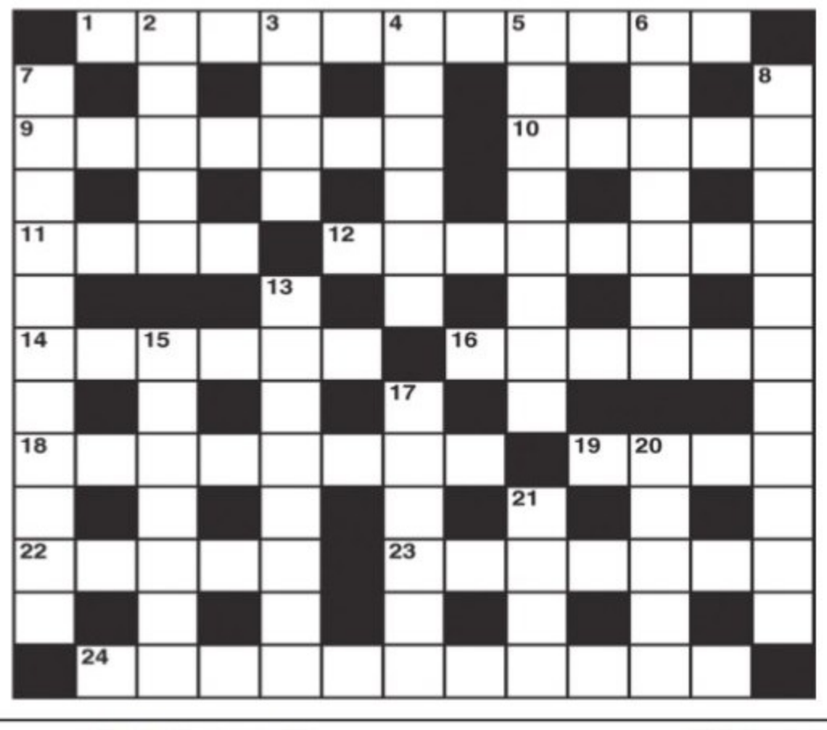
5	2	8	7	1	6	3	9	4
7	9	6	4	5	3	8	2	1
3	1	2	8	6	7	4	5	9
8	5	4	1	2	9	6	3	7

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Post date (11)
9 Initial opportunity (7)
10 It's cold but I would make it hot (5)
11 Accomplished fellow with a certain bearing (4)
12 Trying hard to bind half a dozen with cord (8)
14 He gives people his address (6)
16 Sailor has to obtain an objective (6)
18 Visa for cavorting pop stars (8)
19 The prosecutor's got at in the facts (4)
22 Such courage is never put out (5)
23 It's usually written to one unable to read it (7)
24 It's entering in a way that's exciting attention (11)

DOWN
2 Put down in the correct order (5)
3 Party rising in power in old Scandinavia (4)
4 Deny agent is wrong over a point (6)
5 Superior neighbour in the US (8)
6 Driving a point home? (7)
7 It's nice to be in such a successful firm (4,7)
8 Escape routes for airliners? (6,5)
13 Full make up? (8)
15 Set off but got no place (4,3)
17 Fat it is said of the land (6)
20 Once more makes a profit (5)
21 Sort to be found if in the street (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Hamlet, 4 Handsome, 9 Lordly, 10 Troubles, 12 Town, 13 Guess, 14 Ming, 17 Well on the way, 20 Postage stamp, 23 Roux, 24 Petal, 25 Slur, 28 Anterior, 29 Plight, 30 Harasses, 31 Portia.

Down: 1 Hill town, 2 Mark well, 3 Eels, 5 Arrester gear, 6 Drum, 7 Oil rig, 8 Ensign, 11 Put to the vote, 15 Cocoa, 16 Basso, 18 Fanlight, 19 Operetta, 21 Breath, 22 Butter, 26 Arcs, 27 Alto.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

TNGUS

CLYEC

JAINDO

SBULEH

You can keep saying it, but there's no way you're going to win.
Maybe we should talk politics instead. At least we agree there.
@PlayJumble
THEIR CURRENT TOPIC WAS RESULTING IN AN ARGUMENT AND WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

TO

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TEMPO HOIST WISDOM SUNKEN
Answer: When she asked when the clock would be repaired, he said — NO TIME SOON

Leopard menace continues unabated in Mysuru district as a 55-year-old farmer was attacked at Muthathi village in T Narasipura taluk in the wee hours of Sunday. Foresters said Mahadevaiah was injured in the attack and was admitted to taluk government hospital

3 held for duping bizman with ₹1cr fake currency

Cheat him of Rs 27 lakh to offer loan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Jayanagar police have arrested three persons who had cheated a 56-year-old contractor looking for a loan by giving Rs 1 crore in counterfeit currencies and cheating him to the tune of Rs 27 lakh.

The accused have been identified as Munna Sharun (35), Vishnurajan R (26), both residents of Dinnur Main Road in RT Nagar, and Praveen Kumar (40) of Ramamurthy Nagar. The police are on the lookout for Lakshman Rao, Tushar and Ashalatha Rao.

Police said the complainant, N Parthasarathy, a resident of Ideal Homes Town in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, who has an office in Jayanagar 4th block, had taken a loan of around Rs 1.75 crore by mortgaging his property with a financial institute in Banaswadi in 2017 to invest in his construction business. Due to the pandemic, he incurred losses and was unable to clear the loan leading the bank to declare him as Non-performing Asset.

"He came in contact with the accused who assured him of arranging the loan. They claimed that they have Rs 13 crore and will give a five per cent discount if he borrowed it fully. However, they asked him to transfer Rs 27 lakh as stamp duty and the victim transferred the money online. The accused gave him a bag full of cash in Rs 500 denomination and said there was Rs 1 crore. The unsuspecting complainant received it only to realise later that they were fake currencies and lodged a police complaint," the police said.

The police have seized two cars, including a Jaguar luxury car, 6 kg of duplicate gold biscuits, Rs 1 crore fake currency, cash of Rs 20 lakh and fake bullets from the accused.

REMEMBERING VAJPAYEE

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai unveils a statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the latter's birth anniversary, at Banashankari in Bengaluru on Sunday | KPN

Youth killed as bike rams footpath

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old youth was killed while his friend sustained injuries when he lost control over the bike and rammed into a footpath near Gopalagowda Junction early on Sunday morning. The deceased is **Alex Tambiraj**, a resident of Prakash Nagar near Rajajinagar. He was working as a CNC machine operator in a factory. His friend, Satish, is undergoing treatment. Police said Alex and Satish were going to a church to offer prayers on Christmas. Rash and negligent riding is blamed for the mishap. **ENS**

Rowdies attack cops in two cases, shot at

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWO rowdies wanted in separate cases were shot at and arrested by the Jigani and Anekal police, after they tried to evade arrest by allegedly attacking policemen.

The Jigani police have arrested Ajay, who has 23 cases, including kidnap and robbery, against him. Police said Ajay was involved in a kidnap and extortion case recently and he was absconding. The police received information that two accused in the case were near Singasandra off Hosur Road.

"One of the accused, Krishna alias Havali Krishna, was arrested while Ajay sped away on a scooter. He was chased and stopped at Haragadde village where he attacked head constable Mahesh with a dagger. When inspector Sudharshan HV tried to nab him, Ajay tried to stab him with a dagger. The inspector first fired a warning shot in the air, and then shot him on his leg," the police said, adding that Ajay had seven cases in Jigani station alone.

In another operation, the Anekal police arrested Varun Kumar alias Kencha who had allegedly assaulted police constable Ranganath on December 22. Police said another accused Kishore alias Danny was arrested but Varun was on the run. On Sunday, the police went to arrest him at Kalluvalu village in Jigani. As he assaulted a police constable, he was shot at and nabbed. Varun has 14 cases including one murder and five attempt-to-murder cases against him.

Victim's kin demand speedy investigation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THERE was a similar fight between Jaleel and some persons for being close to another woman, after which representatives of the two communities intervened, and the issue was resolved, the police said.

"We have taken two women and three men into custody," a senior police officer said. Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar on Sunday refused to dwell on the motive behind the murder and said the police have to collect evidence to establish the motive.

Meanwhile, there was commotion near Jaleel's house in Katipalla when a group of family members refused to take his body for the funeral. They demanded that Deputy Commissioner MR Ravikumar visit their house and promise a speedy investigation. Kumar held a discussion with the gathering, and assured them of a speedy investigation, after which the ambulance was allowed to travel to the masjid in Panjimogaru, where the last rites were performed.

At the Mangaluru International Airport, Bommai called the murder unfortunate and urged people to maintain peace.

On her b'day, woman jumps to death from 20th floor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A woman ended her life on her birthday by jumping from the 20th floor of an apartment in Thalaghattapura on Sunday. The deceased is **R Charishma Singh** (40), who was working in the health sector in Canada earlier.

Police said Singh was staying with her elder brother Goutham Singh, who lived on the 19th floor of the Purva Highland apartment in Mallasandra. It was her birthday on Sunday and she left home around 11 am saying she was going to the terrace to dry her hair. But she went to the 20th floor and jumped from a window in the corridor and died on the spot. "She was married to a software engineer in 2011 and had moved to Canada where she was working in the health sector. In January early this year, she gave birth to a girl, but was unable to feed the baby following which she slipped into depression. In June, she tried to end her life, but her husband saved her. The family had decided to bring her back to India as she needed treatment. In October, she came back and was staying with her brother. On October 16, she again attempted suicide by trying to jump from a window, but was stopped. She was admitted to a hospital for treatment and was discharged a month ago," the police said.

EXPRESS READ

Flyer caught smuggling over 1 kg gold in underwear

Bengaluru: A passenger, who attempted to smuggle over 1 kg of gold concealed inside a cover in his underwear, has been arrested by Bengaluru Air Customs officials. The gold is valued at Rs 53.22 lakh. The passenger had arrived from Dubai on Emirates flight on December 23. He had concealed gold patti weighting 1,013 grams in his underwear. **ENS**

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(An Institute of National Importance under MoE, Govt. of India)
Thiruvettakudy, Karaikal – 609 609.

RECRUITMENT FOR TEACHING & NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
(Under Mission Recruitment, Govt. of India)

Advt. No. NITPY/02/2022/T-NT/26122022 Dated: 26.12.2022

National Institute of Technology Puducherry invites Applications from Indian Nationals possessing Excellent Academic Background for Direct Recruitment to the following Teaching positions & Non-Teaching positions as below:

01. Assistant Professor - Grade II (on Contract) - 02 Posts (SC - 01, UR - 01) - Pay Level 10 or 11 as per 7th CPC (Dept. of EEE & Civil Engineering)
02. Junior Engineer (Civil) - 01 Post (OBC - 01) - Pay Level 6 as per 7th CPC
03. Technical Assistant (Civil) - 01 Post (UR - 01) - Pay Level 6 as per 7th CPC
04. Junior Assistant - 02 Posts (UR - 02) - Pay Level 3 as per 7th CPC
05. Office Attendant - 01 Post (UR - 01) - Pay Level 1 as per 7th CPC

For essential qualifications, requirements, application format and other information, visit our Institute website – www.nitpy.ac.in.

Last date for submission of Soft Copy of the Application: 16.01.2023 (Monday), 05.00 P.M.
Last date for submission of Hard Copy of the Application: 21.01.2023 (Saturday), 05.00 P.M.

-Sd-
REGISTRAR

DEUTSCHE BANK AG

26- 27, Raheja Towers, M G Road, Bangalore - 560001

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS 17th January 2023 up to 4:00 pm

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of DEUTSCHE BANK AG had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS **WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: https://www.bankeauctions.com

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Name of the Branch & Account	Property Description	Demand Notice Date / Outstanding Amount (Secured debt)	Authorized Officer's Details	EMD SUBMISSION ACCOUNT DETAILS	Reserve Price / EMD / Minimum Bid Enhance Amount	Date/ Time of e-Auction
Deutsche Bank AG, # 26-27, Raheja Towers, M G Road, Bangalore – 560001. M/s. Oasis Voyages Private Limited, Mr. Tino Thomas, and Ms. Prathibha Unnikrishnan	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of property bearing Flat No 101, 1st Floor, Vinayakaiah Akhuratha, Arcade Appartment, Site No 295, 6th Main Road, 2nd Phase, Banaswadi, K R Puram, Bangalore – 560077 measuring 2650 Sqft	12.11.2019 Rs. 2,97,97,237.72 as on 05.11.2019 + interest + other charges	Mr. Dhaneshwar Koganur Mobile No. 9886227701 Email Id dhaneshwar.koganur@ db.com	A/c No. 078494027010068 A/c Name – Deutsche Bank AG EMD, Name of the Beneficiary – Deutsche Bank AG IFSC- DEUT0784PBC	1,69,20,000.00 / 16,92,000.00 (10% Of The Reserve Price) / 20,000.00 (Bid Inc. Amount)	19-January-2023, 12:00 pm

The e-Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The inspection of property/ies put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders on 7th January 2023 between 11 am to 3 pm.

3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: https://www.bankeauctions.com (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with https://www.bankeauctions.com) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT in the account mentioned above.

After Registration (One Time) by the bidder in the Web Portal, the intending bidder/ purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the Web Portal before the Last Date & Time of submission of the Bid Documents viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS Challan or Demand Draft; ii) Copy of PAN Card; iii) Proof of Identification/ Address Proof (KYC) viz. self-attested copy of Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc.; without which the Bid is liable to be rejected. UPLOADING SCANNED COPY OF ANNEXURE-II & III (can be downloaded from the Web Portal: https//www.bankeauctions.com) AFTER DULY FILLED UP & SIGNING IS ALSO REQUIRED. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid Documents, Training/ Demonstration on Online Inter-se Bidding etc., may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015, E-mail ID : support@bankeauctions.com, Support Helpline Numbers : 124-4302020/21/22/23, 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126, Sales Enquiries : sales@bankeauctions.com, 7291981129 and for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer: Mr. Dhaneshwar Koganur; Mobile No :9886227701 e-mail ID: dhaneshwar.koganur@db.com during the working hours from Monday to Saturday.

4. The interested bidder has to submit their Bid Documents (not below the Reserve Price) and required documents (mentioned in Point No. 3) on/ before 17th January 2023 upto 4.00 pm and after going through the Registering Process (One time) and generating User ID & Password of their own, shall be eligible for participating the e-Auction Process, subject to due verification (of the documents) and/ or approval of the Authorised Officer. EMD also can be deposited in the bank by way demand draft favoring "Deutsche Bank AG EMD" the same will be returned to unsuccessful bidder.

5. During the Online Inter-se Bidding, Bidder can improve their Bid Amount as per the 'Bid Enhancement Amount' (mentioned above) or its multiple and in case bid is placed during the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (each time till the closure of e-Auction process), otherwise, it'll automatically get closed. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of the e-Auction Process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor, after required verification

6. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorised Officer. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the offer shall be liable to be forfeited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting borrower shall have no claim/ right in respect of property/ amount.

7. The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. prior to the date of e-Auction. Neither the Authorised Officer/ Bank nor M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. shall be liable for any Internet Network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event.

8. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment/electricity charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.

9. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/ postpone/ cancel the e-Auction without assigning any reason thereof.

10. The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web Portal of M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd.,https://www.bankeauctions.com before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction

11. The publication is subject to the force Majeure clause.

12. This Notice is also a Notice to the Borrowers under Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Special Instructions

13. Bidding in the last moment should be avoided in the bidders own interest as neither the DEUTSCHE BANK AG nor Service provider will be responsible for any lapse/failure (Internet failure/power failure etc.) in order to ward-off such contingent situations bidders are requested to make all necessary arrangements / alternatives such as power supply back-up etc, so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/ guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 26.12.2022

Dhaneshwar Koganur
Authorized Officer Deutsche Bank A.G.

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Karnataka Aam Aadmi Party vice-president and retired IPS officer Bhaskar Rao will join the protesting KSRTC employees in Belagavi on Monday. In a video message, Rao said he will join the protest on Monday, noting that some of those who took part in the hunger protest have fallen ill and have been hospitalised

Bommai to dash to Delhi in middle of session

To discuss reservation demands, Maha-K'taka border row and possibly cabinet expansion with central leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS pressure mounts to induct BJP leaders K S Eshwarappa, Ramesh Jarkiholi and several other aspirants into the cabinet, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is cutting short his attendance at the ongoing Belagavi winter session and heading to New Delhi on Monday.

He will meet party leaders, including BJP National President J P Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Bommai will discuss various issues, including giving reservation to Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes as the state government has proposed increasing reservation for SCs to 17 per cent from 15 per cent and STs to 7 per cent from 3 per cent.

Meanwhile, Lingayat seers have stepped up their protests demanding reservation for their community. There is demand from Vokkaliga leaders, too, to include their community

Panchamashalis protest in Belagavi

under the reservation ambit. "The CM will discuss all these issues with the party leaders. Giving reservation will help the party ahead of the Assembly elections next year," said a party leader on the condition of anonymity.

Bommai will also likely discuss cabinet expansion as both former ministers Eshwarappa and Jarkiholi are demanding that they be inducted back into cabinet. They had even given the ongoing session a miss. Though there is speculation that the cabinet expansion might happen before Sankranthi festival, party leaders are not keen on this as this might cause adverse impact on them.

However, a senior minister on the condition of anonymity said the cabinet expansion will not happen. "The CM is not going to discuss about this as party leaders are clear of not inducting any one at this juncture. There are other issues, including the Karnataka-Maharashtra row, and reservation demands, which the CM wants a clarity on before passing it in the house," he said.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

When it is battle of war rooms

Ahead of the Assembly polls, BJP and Congress have set up many war rooms where strategies are drawn up and plans executed to win the crucial elections. For BJP, it is said, the RSS headquarters itself is a strong war room that is supported by other modern setups as the ruling party wants to beat anti-incumbency and ensure an unprecedented back-to-back victory in the state. While BJP has kept mum on its internal survey reports, Congress is claiming that it could win 130 seats. JDS senior leader HD Kumaraswamy, who has based his prediction on BJP's claims, says his party could win 55 seats. Though JDS does not have war rooms, it is guided by the uncanny political sense of its patriarch HD Deve Gowda. For Congress, its centralised war room is led by former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil and election strategist Sunil Kanugolu. But KPCC president DK Shivakumar has 40 such setups to help his supporters, MLAs and aspirants, while Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah has started eight for his own people. Private agencies too have come up with their own strategy rooms to help Congress leaders, who may not believe in their own party's efforts.

... And the award goes to?

Who is a better actor -- a politician or a thespian? At a recent event in Dharwad, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told Rangayana Director Ramesh Parvi Nayak, in jest, that actors are over dramatic when seeking their demands. He went on to announce a grant for a play, Swatantra Sangraamada Belli Chukki Veera Rani Kitturu Chennama, that is being staged on a grand scale featuring elephants and horses. But it did not take long for a smart alec among the audience to wonder who are better actors.

Reddy floats 'secular' political party

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

Gali Janardhana Reddy announces launch of his political outfit | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

PUTTING an end to the political suspense, former minister and mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy on Sunday announced the launch of his political outfit – Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPP) – and declared that he will contest from the Gangavathi in the 2023 Assembly polls. Interestingly, his party had already been registered with the Election Commission of India sometime back.

Reddy's move is a setback for BJP leaders, especially in Karnataka, who tried their best to placate him as he felt that he was neglected in the party. Even former chief minister B S Yediyurappa held talks with him recently.

At a marathon press conference at his residence here, Reddy indirectly targeted the party's national leadership, especially Union Home Minister Amit Shah, but praised Yeddiyurappa.

Asked whether his party will have any tie-up with the BJP, Reddy shot back that he is not an "adjustment" politician. "During the 2018 polls, Shah ignored me when I was no longer a BJP member, but summoned me to New Delhi two days later to repent about it. But he restricted me to campaign only for (Transport Minister) B Sriramulu in Molakalmuru. The BJP would have bagged more seats if I was allowed to campaign in other constituencies," he said.

The candidature of Yediyurapp's son BY Vijayaendra, who was about to file nomination from Varuna constituency, was withdrawn at the last minute, which was an insult to the former CM, he added.

He clarified that he will not insist that his close associate Sriramulu and even his brothers Karunakara Reddy and Somashekara Reddy join his new outfit.

He will release the party symbol in a couple of weeks, apart from disclosing details on who will join and how many constituencies the KRPP will contest. It will be a 'secular outfit' that will follow the ideals of 12th century social reformer Basavanna, who dreamt of a casteless society, and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

WILL THE CM BITE THE BULLET?

AMID the high-decibel discussion over the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row, senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa's "mild protest" and quick action by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who persuaded him to attend the ongoing legislature session in Belagavi, almost passed off as a routine political development.

But the manner in which the situation unfolded – that too when the Assembly session is under way – exposed the disquiet in the ruling party and the pressure on the CM to expand his ministry. It has been eluding him for a long time. Now, the big question is: Will the CM take up the exercise when hardly three months are left before the state goes to the polls?

Taking up the ministry expansion to fill six vacant berths at this juncture, especially after the recent episode, is tricky. On the positive side, it allows the CM to take a few sulking senior leaders into confidence, broad-base caste equations and give representation to unrepresented regions.

Eshwarappa's induction may help send out a message to the Kuruba community, a large section of which seems to support Congress leader Siddaramaiah. Ramesh Jarkiholi, who is also said to be keen to get back into the ministry, could play a crucial role in shoring up BJP's electoral prospects in Belagavi. The current political situation favours him, as unlike in 2018, the BJP is not in a dominant position in the border district with 18 Assembly constituencies.

But on the flip side, ministry expansion will be perceived as a political exercise ahead of the polls rather than an attempt to bring dynamism into the administration. New inductees will hardly have time to make any difference in terms of administration. The exercise could cause heartburn among those left out. It can even send a message that the party that managed a leadership change in the state without any hassles is now susceptible to pressure when its top brass is keen on emulating the Gujarat model of not giving tickets to many senior leaders and bringing in new faces.

While some leaders are sulking, the leadership will have little inclination to open one more front when it is expected to go the whole hog to make the most of the remaining time. The focus will be on delivering on its promises, improving its image, fighting anti-incumbency at the local level and gaining control of the narrative. The pros and cons of ministry expansion will be weighed keeping all these aspects in mind.

It would do well for those in power if the government reflects on its commitment to making the administration more responsive and responsible and take it to the doorsteps of the people. The CM did emphasise this on several occasions and even started many initiatives, but that needs a bigger push. It helps to improve the government's image and could fetch great dividends in the elections.

As expected, the ministry expansion or any other politically important decisions will be taken by the BJP central leadership which will also work out different strategies for different regions – especially Old Mysuru, where BJP is yet to make big gains.

If the CM goes ahead with the ministry expansion, a Vokkaliga leader from the region may find a place in the cabinet. Congress and its state president DK Shivakumar are depending heavily on the Vokkaliga heartland where it has a clear advantage over BJP, unlike in other regions where the national parties are evenly placed.

As of now, it looks like in most seats in the region it is going to be Congress vs Janata Dal (Secular), while BJP has the advantage in a few other constituencies.

The massive response to JDS senior leader HD Kumaraswamy's Pancharatna Yatra may indirectly help BJP as it cuts into Congress votes. JDS is the first party to announce the list of its candidates.

On his part, the CM will look to make the most of the remaining time to campaign aggressively. He will also present the budget in February just before the polls, making it the government's report card and a statement of intent.

Kempanna gets bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA State Contractors' Association President D Kempanna and three other office bearers, who were arrested by the Vyalikaval police in connection with a defamation suit filed by Horticulture Minister N Munirathna, were granted bail by the 8th ACMM Court late on Saturday night.

Kempanna, vice-president of the association V Krishna Reddy, Gurusiddappa and treasurer HS Nataraj were arrested by the police on Saturday, following the non-bailable warrant issued by the ACMM Court after they failed to appear before it in connection with the defamation suit filed by the minister against 19 persons regarding the '40% commission' allegation.

Police said the four were produced before the magistrate at the latter's residence in Koramangala. They were granted bail with conditions such as furnishing personal bonds and appearing before the court for the hearing on Monday.

The Vyalikaval Police picked up the 84 year old and others and presented them before the magistrate.

Kempanna's daughter said her father had suffered a heart attack only a couple of weeks earlier and was recuperating.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai hands over offer letters to aspirants in Bengaluru on Sunday. Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan looks on | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CM: Provide 10k jobs to youth every month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO mark Good Governance Day, which is observed on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 10,000 job offer letters were issued to candidates trained by the Department of Skill Development. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai symbolically handed over the offer letters to eight job aspirants here on Sunday.

Lauding the efforts of Higher Education, IT/BT and Skill Development Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Bommai suggested that 10,000 job offers should be provided every month with the help of private companies.

Under the Skill Development Department, offer letters with a minimum salary between Rs 18,000 and Rs 45,000 were handed over to aspirants of different educational backgrounds.

"It is for the first time in the history of Karnataka that offer letters have been handed over to 10,000 aspirants at one go. Our government is training youths, imparting the needed skills and improving their personality which are crucial to get a job," the CM said.

Narayan said the state government is taking steps to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency in not only higher education department but in other departments as well.

Shutting of quarries hits construction sector

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

THE shutting down of stone quarries and crushers from December 21 in protest against the government seeking to impose another royalty is creating hiccups in the implementation of development works.

Elections are fast approaching and almost all the 224 constituencies have a list of development works apart from national highway works. In addition, the government has many ambitious infrastructure works lined up worth hundreds of crores.

But with quarries and crushers downing shutters, the construction industry has been hit with a severe shortage of construction material. Contractors are finding it tough to get construction materials in the market for the past four days.

Ravindra Shetty, president of Karnataka Association of Quarries and Crushers which is spearheading the protest, said a survey was carried out through the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Agency and they are opposing this. "They can increase the revenue if they legitimise the entire business instead of forcing us to work on illegalities and adjustments."

When asked about this, Mines Minister Halappa Achar said there is a problem with the crushing industry and most of them are closed. "They have placed a list of demands over the royalty issue. I will bring it to the notice of the chief minister in Belagavi on Monday. We will work out a solution as soon as possible."

Shetty added that they are prepared to shut down for three-months. "We are even planning to hold a Delhi Chalo. We are also planning a strike after the session concludes."

Stone crushers restart ops in Bailhongal

Belagavi: Stone crushing units in Bailhongal taluk have restarted operations despite the Department of Mines and Geology ordering thir temporary closure and the Karnataka Lokayukta registering a suo motu case against them. Villagers who are at the receiving end of these stone crushers are now planning to stage a protest to get a permanent relief from the menace. "These stone crushers are operating without safety measures. We will bring these issues to the notice of the authorities," a resident said.

EXPRESS READ

Rallies won't stop on Covid-19 pretext: DKS

Bengaluru: KPCC president DK Shivakumar said on Sunday that the Congress' rallies will continue as planned, and they cannot be stopped on the pretext of curbing the spread of Covid-19. Reacting to the statement of state Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar that cases may spurt in February and March, Shivakumar dared the BJP government to stop their rallies that he and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah will lead. He alleged that the government has sabotaged the Mekedatu padayatra on the pretext of Covid-19, and FIRs have been filed against the Congress leaders. "BJP cannot digest the response that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has elicited. The BJP also organises rallies and their leaders visit other states. Let the government stop them first. They have been whipping up fear among people, damaging jobs, and destroying the economy," he said. He said that the Panchajanya 2.0 yatra, bus yatra, protest at Vijayapura on December 30 over the Krishna river issue, in Hubli on January 2 on the Mahadayi issue, and the SC/ST Samavesha in Chitradurga on January 8 will be held as per scheduled. "Let them stop us if they can," he added. ENS

MANY LOST JOBS IN 2022, BUT IT SECTOR WILL PULL THROUGH

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
@ Bengaluru

2022 was blessed with dipping Covid-19 cases, which reignited economic engines, reopened travel and encouraged people to reimagine better times. However, the year was marred by certain unprecedented events that pushed businesses into stormy seas. The Ukraine War's far-reaching ramifications stretched over world polity and economy. Likewise, impending recession fears, with a decline in global spending and economic activities, hit sectors, markets, and the lives of common people. Even the resilient IT sector could not shield itself from the tremulous situation that best describes 2022.

While the IT sector braced itself during the pandemic, the shaky 2022 created hurdles of its own, especially with project execution, in turn hitting revenues, prompting executives to reallocate resources, replan strategies and rethink hiring.

Amid recession insecurities, especially in the US, layoffs have mounted in the tech sector globally, with large corporations such as Microsoft, Twitter and Meta reducing workforces, and Amazon and Apple going slow on hiring. The trend is similar in India.

According to tech information platform Inc42, as of December 8, 17,989 employees were laid off by 52 Indian startups, while globally, 1,35,000 employees were affected globally.

"India's technology sector has been hit hard by the effects of the global economic downturn. Tech funding slowed down, hiring in technology declined, the market faced layoffs and salary hikes were corrected after last year's (2021) inflated numbers," Quess IT Staffing Chief Executive Officer Vijay Sivaram says.

The pandemic heralded drastic changes in work practices and execution, perhaps forever. While work-from-home became the norm then, it transcended into hybrid work models and flexible options later. "With life returning to normal, employees are demanding continued flexibility and work-from-home options. But concerns over loss of productivity in such an environment has forced employers to request their staff to return to office full time, while some continue to offer hybrid options with a minimum of three days in office," explains Sivaram.

The pain point of moonlighting led Wipro to fire 300 staffers and Infosys to warn its employees against having "double lives". Karnataka IT-BT Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan called the practice "cheating".

On the brighter side, however, significant disruptions worldwide have made India realise that it must diversify its technology partnerships and develop more home-grown capabilities, which will boost its growth trajectory. This is likely to create a surge in hiring demand for the industry.

"Though there have been layoffs, specific sectors like IT have had both sides. Cost optimisation has led to certain segments reducing the workforce, but the incredible number of startups working on niche products have hired people possessing next-gen technological skills," says AscentHR Vice-President (Growth Initiatives) Prabhakar S.

"The industry has been instrumental in strengthening India's digital capabilities through strides in deep tech, AI and AR, offering an entirely new gamut of opportunities in terms of jobs and value creation. Despite experiencing phenomena such as the great resignation and quiet quitting, businesses are on their way to breaking the code, with a 2 per cent improvement in total employee experience in the IT/IT-BPM sector over the previous year. Despite global IT businesses' large-scale employment cuts and hiring freezes, the Indian IT sector is expected to buck the world trend and continue to hire next year, particularly in specialised digital skills," concludes Yeshasvini Ramaswamy, Serial Entrepreneur and CEO, Great Place to Work India.

In a bid to clear the extra rush this festive season, South Western Railway will be running two special trains, Yesvantpur - Mangaluru Junction - Yesvantpur Special Express (one trip) (on Dec 28) and the Vasco Da Gama - Yesvantpur One Way Express Special (on Jan 2)

VIOLENCE NOT THE ANSWER FOR TEACHERS

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

DISTURBING incidents of teachers resorting to violence to 'punish' the student for homework not done, spelling errors, nonconformity with discipline etc have been occurring across the country. In Gadag, a teacher, Muthappa Yellapa Hadagali (33), hit 10-year-old student Bharat Barker with a spade and threw him off the first floor of the school building, killing him. This and similar such incidents reported from other states cannot be defined as corporal punishment because in all these cases, children bore the brunt of alleged misplaced anger and inter-personal issues of the teacher, who used the child as a tool of his vengeance. Incidents of corporal punishment are indicative of either deep-rooted mental health issues of these teachers, which may have been aggravated by the pandemic, lack of aptitude to handle children, changing attitude of the students towards their teachers and access to information on the internet.

Covid-19 posed the biggest challenge to health and education. There is no doubt that there is as much a paradigm shift in our education system as is there in the student-teacher relationship. The pandemic-induced lockdown resulted in changing of gears -- from physical teaching to virtual -- for which neither the teachers, school managements nor the students and their parents were ready. Children in primary schools were impacted the most because of the learning gap and the time teachers lost in helping them develop their concepts. A first standard student did not attend offline classes for two years and was promoted to fourth grade, resulting in a huge gap in concept development.

BIG PICTURE

Children missed out on the stimulus of not only physical classes but also of social and life skills that they learn in school. The teachers, on the other hand, were offboarded from offline to online during the 'education emergency' and were propelled back to offline teaching when the curbs were lifted. With mounting pressure from the school management and parents to deliver 100 per cent results, most of the teachers, who too have suffered their own share of anxieties, health, family, financial losses and social issues during the pandemic, are finding it difficult to cope.

To understand the tension in an otherwise sacred relationship between the teacher and the taught, one must look at how teachers are recruited for primary schools in government and private setups, the training they undergo to equip them to teach fragile young minds and their aptitude to handle children.

"Unfortunately, there are teachers who are not emotionally qualified to teach children. A teacher needs a lot of empathy, patience and affection to teach a child. There is no aptitude test to get into the training profession. The focus is on curriculum. Unfortunately, a 'good' teacher is perceived as someone who completes the curriculum in time and achieves 100 per cent results. It is not only the management's expectation, it is also what parents look for when choosing a school for their ward," said a mental health expert.

Teaching, which has been traditionally viewed as an 'easy' career option, is on the contrary a tough challenge, which tests a teacher's academic, mental, emotional, social, personal and interpersonal skills every day before young learners. Academic brilliance does not alone qualify someone to become a teacher. Understanding child psychology is a must. Present generation learners have the internet to 'learn' from. Their expectations of the teacher are much higher than the earlier generations. The 'I-know-it-all' attitude has further impacted the student-teacher relationship. "Students can correct a teacher for wrong pronunciation and challenge them on their teaching skills. It can be humiliating for a teacher. One has to be emotionally mature and thorough in one's subject to handle the new generation learners," said a teacher, who didn't wish to be named.

"All it takes is for the teacher to sit down with a 'non performer.' Most of them are loners or angry because there is no one to listen to them or they may have a learning disability. Under pressure to deliver 100 per cent results, the teacher has very little time," she added.

Corporal punishment is illegal, but it is no secret that corporal punishment is frequently practised as a means of "disciplining" children. "We do not condone it in any school, but it is inevitable that some teachers resort to corporal punishment, and are often only found out when reported," said Karnataka Associated Management of Schools General Secretary, D Shashi Kumar. He also mentioned that often, teachers are afraid of using any kind of disciplinary action out of fear.

"Children are aware that they can't be hit and often use it to blackmail. A teacher pulled up before the student and parents by the school management can lose out on her standing in class," added another teacher.

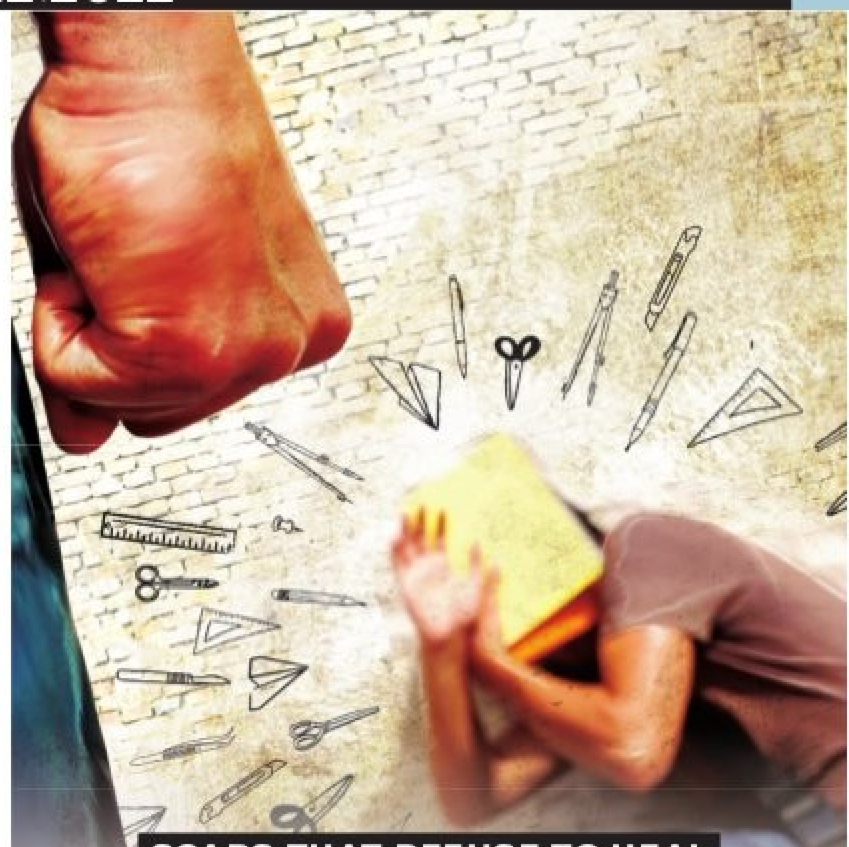
Educationist Dr Ananth Prabhu G from Dakshina Kannada observed, "Corporal punishment is used for various reasons – from disciplining to enforcing rules and guidelines, or to making a point about the consequences of a student's misbehavior. The purported long-term goal is to change the child's behaviour and to make it more consistent with the adult expectations." But the impact of corporal punishment can be devastating and often, long lasting on a child.

"It takes a long time for a child to overcome his/her fear of corporal punishment. The mental scarring is deeper than the physical. Children not only experience pain, sadness, fear, anger, shame and guilt, they also feel threatened. Children who have been physically punished tend to exhibit high hormonal reactivity to stress," added Prabhu.

To overcome the trauma of corporal punishment, children "should be encouraged to talk to a trusting adult, such as a teacher, school counsellor or family member about how they are being treated. Parents and teachers can encourage children to find positive outlets to express their feelings, such as art, music or sports. One can even seek professional help to deal with trauma related to corporal punishment. Education and life skill interventions to build a positive and violence-free environment at school and strengthening of relationships among students, teachers and administrators are a must," he added.

Speaking on behalf of teachers in government schools, Chidanand, a teacher in a government school in Shahabad taluk, Kalaburagi, said teachers are "overburdened" and the government extracts maximum work from them. "They have less time for teaching and completing the syllabus because of which, sometimes they lose their cool. They should not be tasked with anything else other than teaching," he added.

(With inputs from Donna Eva, G Subhash Chandra, Mallikarjun Hiremath, Ramkrishna Badseshi and Divya Cutinho)



SCARS THAT REFUSE TO HEAL

1. An LKG boy of a reputed English medium school in Bengaluru was allegedly verbally abused for being 'talkative' in class
2. Another 11-year-old boy from a school in Bengaluru was hit by his teacher for forgetting his notes. The child was admitted to a hospital with severe ear pain and vision problems
3. In Dakshina Kannada district, a student was verbally abused and beaten up by his teacher for not attending classes after falling sick
4. Another student was insulted after a teacher uploaded a video in which he had taken the student and his parents to task on social media

Corporal punishment pushes a child further away from studies. The concept of education has changed and there is a need to train teachers, students and parents as well. Every child has a unique capacity and should be trained to bring out the best in him — Educationalist Sujit Bhaskar, Davanagere

Teachers should be trained in child psychology to handle a child better. They should also be counselled and allowed to vent out their frustration or any negative emotion — Chitra Somashekhar, a counsellor in Davanagere

Today, students judge their teachers on how good they are in their subject. There is a change in attitude. Teachers need to be thorough in their subject, and equip themselves with the art of facilitation — Jayashree Ramesh, Director, Academy for Severe Handicap & Autism, Bengaluru

Most teachers do not have basic knowledge to deal with children. If they are unable to deal with kids who are impulsive, depressed or disinterested, they should seek professional help — Rennie Dsouza, Chairman, CWC, DK

The entrepreneur couple featured on PM Narendra Modi's radio show

Mann Ki Baat mentions palm leather startup

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Shivamogga

A Shivamogga-based couple's out-of-the-box idea on the use of betelnut fiber has earned the praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Suresh and his wife Maithili, who are residents of Vinoba Nagar, are exporting their palm leather products internationally.

Modi praised the couple in his Mann Ki Baat episode on Sunday and said the countrymen should use such indigenous products and gift them to others as well.

Suresh and Maithili, through their startup Bhoomi Agri Ventures, are making and exporting areca palm products. Their palm leather project was instigated as a cheap plant-based replacement for animal leather, plastic and rubber.

The PM said the couple is sending many unique products made from betelnut fiber to the international market. "These people are making decorative things ranging from trays, plates and handbags from betelnut fiber. Chappals made of this fiber are also being liked a lot today. Today, their products are being sold in London and other markets in Europe. This is the very quality of our natural resources and traditional skills, which is being liked by everyone. With the traditional knowledge of India, the world is looking at ways of a sustainable future. We ourselves also need to be more and more aware of this. We should use such indigenous and local products and gift them to others as well. This will also strengthen our identity, the local economy, and, in large numbers, brighten the future of the people," he said.

Expressing happiness over Modi mentioning them in this radio programme, Suresh told *TNIE* that their project was possible thanks to the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR).

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2250/ 2022-23 Date: 19.12.2022	Rs. 17,75,833/- / Rs. 44,400/-	09.01.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.	11.01.2023 after 5:00 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2250/ 2022-23 Date: 19.12.2022 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 29,75,558/- / Rs. 29,760/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2252/ 2022-23 Date: 19.12.2022	Rs. 30,13,059/- / Rs. 60,265/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2285/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 66,81,853/- / Rs. 1,33,640/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2285/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 56,91,754/- / Rs. 1,13,840/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2285/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 64,10,493/- / Rs. 1,28,210/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2285/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 63,78,982/- / Rs. 1,27,580/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2285/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 69,29,883/- / Rs. 1,38,600/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2287/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022(2nd Call)	Rs. 20,15,818/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer(East)-1.					
Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
10	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/2578/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 3,73,465/- / Rs. 9,400/-	09.01.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	10.01.2023 after 5:01 p.m.
11		BWSSB/EEC/PB/2580/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 4,73,844/- / Rs. 11,900/-		
12		BWSSB/EEC/PB/2582/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 3,72,460/- / Rs. 9,400/-		
13		BWSSB/EEC/PB/2584/ 2022-23 Date: 22.12.2022	Rs. 7,74,028/- / Rs. 19,400/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer(Central).					
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
14	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/1252/ 2022-23 Date: 23.12.2022	Rs. 15,85,421/- / Rs. 39,700/-	10.01.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.	12.01.2023 after 3:00 p.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer(South West-1).					
15	South-2	BWSSB/EES2/PB/578/ 2022-23 Date: 16.12.2022	Rs. 31,95,526/- / Rs. 64,000/-	04.01.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.	06.01.2023 after 4:00 p.m.
16		BWSSB/EE(S2)/AE/580/ 2022-23 Date: 16.12.2022	Rs. 16,37,610/- / Rs. 41,000/-		
Sd/- Executive Engineer(South-2).					

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3704/2022-23

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
O. S. No. 49 OF 2021

BETWEEN:
Hill Crest Apartment Owners' Association and 17 others
PLAINTIFFS
AND:
Suadela Constructions Private Limited
(House of Hiranandani - Bannerghatta Road)
DEFENDANT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Plaintiffs have filed the above suit, in representative capacity under Order I, Rule 8, CPC, seeking a declaration that paragraph No. 6A of the registered Deed of Declaration dated 20/09/2016 is illegal, null and void and not binding on the Plaintiff, for mandatory injunction to install Entry and Exit gates at the North-Eastern and North-Western corners of the property known as Hill Crest Apartment, House of Hiranandani, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, as shown in the BBMP Sanctioned plan dated 02/06/2015, for mandatory injunction to stop all commercial activities in the schedule property, permanent injunction from restricting/interfering with rights of Plaintiffs and other member from entering upon or using parks & open spaces amongst other consequential reliefs, against the Defendant/Developer. By order dated 01.12.2022, this Court has permitted the Plaintiffs to prosecute the aforesaid suit in representative capacity.

Notice hereby is given, in pursuance of the Order dated 01.12.2022, to all interested persons about the institution of the aforesaid suit, and if desirous, to appear before this Court in person or by a pleander duly instructed, on the 16th day of January 2023 at 11.00 A.M.

A copy of the plaint can be downloaded at https://1drv.ms/u.s!Azbt1hXNzlUi6pBeH6-IT78TE-Bsg?e=FtSySz

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 15th day of December, 2022.

BY ORDER OF COURT
PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE,
BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT

Advocate for the Plaintiffs:
SUNDARASWAMY & RAMDAS
Advocates,
No24, "Keshava Nivas" Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.
Phone: (080) 22263838, 22380809
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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.uvnl.com

प.सं. 948 **Corrigendum with time extension** दि: 24.12.2022

Corrigendum with time extension uploaded on e-procurement portal on 24.12.2022 bearing amendments shall be deemed to be part of e-tender NCB/08/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2022-23 for "Protective coating on spillway gates & HR gates" invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Asan Barrage, Jal Shakti Bhawan, Dhakrani, Dehradun.
Last date of submission of bids on e-portal: 14.01.2023
Other terms and conditions of tender will remain unchanged.
For fuller & further details. Kindly visit e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in**.

Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/AEE(C)/TrC/DVG/22-23/CYS-104 Dated : 21.12.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Mode Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bid against this enquiry No. **SEE/AEE(C)/Trans/W&M/DVG/22-23/CYS-104 Dated 21.12.2022** for the works coming in the Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. The detailed notification regarding the works called through E-Procurement mode can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.12.2022** at **11.00 Hrs** onwards.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hadadi Road, Opposite to Stadium, Davanagere-577002

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/57 (AMEND-I)-2022-23 AMENDMENT NO- I

The Due Date and Time of Submission and Opening of the following SRM E-Tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Extended Due Date & Time (Hrs) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/P&C/T-04/1122 [RFx No. 5000001071] (Two-Bid System) Procurement of Insulated Type Aerial Work Platform (38 mtr height) along with Hot Line Tools (Refloated tender against SP/P&C/T-02/822 **RFx No. 5000001034**)	02.01.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs / 02.01.2023 at 16:00 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C), Tel. No.: 022-26474211/022-26472131 Extn. 2493/3667 Mobile No. 8329909813
e-mail ID: **eepc@mahatransco.in**
For further details, visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL's website **www.mahatransco.in** So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

EDITORIAL

It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life

Pope Francis

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

OROP REVISIONS GIVE CENTRE BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR NOW

The latest revision of pensions for armed forces and family pensioners, retrospectively, from July 1, 2019 under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) policy is the 'silver bullet' that the government would be happy to bite for now. The revision of pensions helps the BJP-led government score some brownie points ahead of the next Parliamentary elections. It also allows it not to address the elephant in the room—the real issue of automatic revision of pensions under OROP.

With the latest announcement and the big numbers being thrown around—₹23,638 crore arrears payments for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022, and an average annual outgo of over ₹8,000 crore—the government has, for now, projected itself as one generous to the veterans' demands. After all, the nationalist BJP has always projected itself as a well-wisher of the armed forces. However, the government has deflected attention from the real issue that the veterans are fighting for. The OROP in its current form was implemented in 2015, where it was decided that the government would pay One Rank One Pension to the pensioners or their family members, and that the pensions would be revised every five years.

The veterans, however, want automatic revision and not a periodic one. They argue that the latter creates a gap between early and new retirees, and the gap gets taken care of only after the revision every five years. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court upheld the government's policy on revision and asked it to carry it out from July 1, 2019. Therefore, the government's latest decision complies with the Supreme Court order. But it does give the government some bragging rights ahead of Parliamentary elections in 2024.

Pensions have become the proverbial monkey on the government's back. Opposition Congress has been using pensions as an issue against the government in the state elections with limited success. Its promise of returning to the old pension system—where a major part of the pension contribution comes from the government—has been gaining some traction. Though experts have warned the political parties promising the reinstatement of the old pension system of fiscal hara-kiri, they have found support from government employees. The government, finding itself getting cornered on the issue, needed to counter the opposition on this, and it found help in the One Rank One Pension revision.

CLARITY PLEASE ON ANTI-COVID OVERDRIVE

Is India needlessly hyperactive in its anti-Covid measures, like making it mandatory for international arrivals from pandemic hotspot nations to take the RT-PCR test? Eminent virologists are perplexed at the rapidity with which the country is raising its firewalls when the situation on the ground appears quite normal. To be clear, no one is against cranking up the Covid infrastructure across the country, but is blocking infected passengers from boarding flights necessary at present? As of now, the country has less than 3,500 active cases. Also, 92% of the target population has been fully vaccinated. In contrast, the caseload in China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UK and the US is substantial. The highest case count, of course, is in China, which runs into millions.

Experts claim India already has over 250 sub-variants of Omicron, so the detection of four BF.7 cases in India need not cause undue alarm though it is the sub-variant driving the surge in China. They also don't think India would witness a fresh outbreak of severe Covid cases, as our population already has hybrid immunity due to good vaccination coverage and natural infection. China's case is different because of its flawed zero-Covid policy, misdirected vaccination strategy and low vaccine efficiency. That said, since the Centre is scaling up its response and state governments are falling in line, it is reasonable to assume they have good reasons to do so. It is a given that Covid cases go up in winter. While being proactive is good, it would be useful if the government clarified doubts as it did in the past to persuade people to take their drive seriously.

As for the Centre's sharp advisory to the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it appears to be a tit-for-tat for the Congress demanding a pause in the West Bengal polls last year and seeking an early end of the Haridwar Maha Kumbh mela when the second wave of the pandemic had started to climb. The situation in Bengal and Haridwar at that point in time was indeed worrisome as the daily case count in both places was in four figures. As against that, the seven-day national average of infections is now just around 160. Yet, the Modi government does not want to take chances as important state elections are due next year, which could set the tone for the 2024 general elections.

QUICK TAKE

WFH FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The Tamil Nadu government moots enabling differently abled people employed in the state to work from home: A commendable idea that can make a difference. Most offices are not disabled-friendly, with altered access routes, conveniences and parking. Getting dressed for work and commuting is time-consuming and, sometimes, dangerous—WFH destresses them on these counts. But that doesn't mean absolving the State of its duty to create an inclusive work environment. The pandemic taught employers the benefits of remote-working staff. Many adjusted their operations to WFH possibilities to better access work. It also opens up job options for the differently-abled unemployed.

The power to amend does not include the power to destroy the Constitution's basic features. Thirteen judges of the SC held this in the Kesavananda Bharati case

SOVEREIGNTY OF PARLIAMENT A MYTH, RULE OF LAW REALITY

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

The recent debate stirred by unprovoked statements of the law minister on the functioning of the higher judiciary has exposed his unfamiliarity with the issues raised. Let me first deal with some recently articulated misconceptions about Parliamentary sovereignty. No institution in India can claim absolute sovereignty. Parliament is sovereign to the extent that it makes laws through procedures that are clearly demarcated in the Constitution and under the rules of business framed by Parliament and the Legislatures of States. Parliament alone, subject to procedural requirements provided for in the Constitution and the law declared by the Supreme Court, can amend the Constitution.

But the power to amend does not include the power to destroy the basic features of the Constitution. Thirteen judges of the Supreme Court held this in the Kesavananda Bharati case. The independence of the judiciary is one of the basic features of the Constitution.

If the independence of our judiciary is compromised, our polity will no longer be democratic. We will be regarded as a dictatorship like any other non-democratic nation of the world. I doubt very much if 1.4 billion people of the country will ever accept that situation. The country is too large and too diverse for people to accept the proposition that Parliament is sovereign and can do what it likes. That concept of Parliamentary sovereignty is, to my mind, a myth. What is sovereign is our Constitution with the underlying leitmotif that the rule of law prevails.

That is why the declaration of the law by the Supreme Court on any subject matter that comes before it is binding on all institutions including Parliament. Any attempt to legislate with the intent of overturning a binding ruling is itself regarded by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. The supremacy of the rule of law is the guiding factor that helps us preserve the ethos of our Constitution.

The debate initiated by the law minister is flawed in many respects. First, no minister of the government should make a public comment on how the court should function, just as no judge of the Supreme Court should comment on how Parliament or a legislative assembly must handle its affairs within the House. The manner in which the court functions is internal to the court just as the manner in which Parliament functions is internal to the procedures, as adopted by it.

SOURAV ROY

No judge of the Supreme Court can advise on how the business of Parliament and legislative assemblies should be conducted. The court can only opine on the legality of any process which raises issues that can, if at all, be decided by the court.

Second relates to the issue raised in relation to court vacations. This year, Parliament functioned for 57 days. Sittings of the Supreme Court are held for 260 days in a year, apart from vacation courts when benches are constituted to hear urgent matters which cannot await the regular functioning of the court. Should, for example, the Supreme Court advise Parliament to work a little more and extend its sittings from 57 days to 260 days? I believe that will be inappropriate. The Constitution has delineated the contours of each institution and has given complete freedom to them to conduct their affairs subject, of course, to the rule of law.

Besides, a judge of a court sits at 10.30 in the morning and works till 4.00 pm with a short break for lunch. The work of a judge does not end there. The judge has to read files at home for the next day, and in the Supreme Court, the average number of files on a given miscellaneous day is 60 to 70. That requires the judge to sit for another three to four hours reading the assigned briefs. In between, court orders on matters heard during the day are to be finalised along with drafting judgments awaiting delivery. Judges also discharge administrative functions.

So, it is a seven-day-a-week job. Few public servants follow such a gruelling routine. That apart, the vacations the minister talked about, are spent drafting judgments yet to be delivered.

The statement of the minister that the Supreme Court should not be wasting time on Public Interest Litigations (PILs) and applications for bail displays a complete lack of appreciation of the Constitutional commitment of the court to the cause of personal liberty and to act when public-spirited citizens bring issues affecting public interest before it.

When the executive falters, courts are obliged to protect the public interest, a practice institutionalised by the Supreme Court since the 1970s. The minister, perhaps, is also not aware of the fact that many of these PILs are sponsored by individuals who are aligned to the ideology of the party to which he belongs, for political dividends.

As far as bail applications are concerned, I am sure the government would not like bail applications to be heard in the Supreme Court. Of late, we have witnessed instances of the government's prosecuting agencies targeting and taking into custody political opponents, students, journalists, and those belonging to the minority communities for reasons which need not be stated here.

The minister's criticism of the collegium system is to some extent justified. It needs a revamp to instill confidence and bring about transparency in its deliberations. But the government's concern is targeted more towards the fact that it is not the final arbiter in matters of appointment of judges to the higher judiciary. Having captured one institution after another, it now seeks to capture the last citadel of freedom. The government wants to appoint persons who embrace the ideological moorings of the ruling party.

The problem is no matter what institutional mechanism is put in place, what really matters is the quality of persons appointed. If they fail us, all is lost. The onslaught on their independence has begun in earnest.

(Tweets @KapilSibal)

HOW NOBODY'S CHILD BECAME A HAPPY, SECURE PERSON

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I would like to end the year with a tale of hope, grace and fulfilment. It is the story of the blind Hindi poet Surdas. Modern India has seen four films on him; *Surdas* (1939), *Bhakta Surdas* (1942), *Sant Surdas* (1975) and *Chintamani Surdas* (1988). His verses are still widely sung and danced to, and he is an important figure in the Bhakti movement. Surdas was reportedly born in Sihi village near Delhi, and according to some sources, lived from 1483 to 1573. His compositions are found in the anthology *Sur Sagar*. There is a line by him in the Guru Granth Sahib, translated as "O mind, do not even associate with those who have turned their backs on God."

Sur's original name was said to be Madan Mohan. His mother Jamuna and father Ramdas resented him for being born blind. He was given burnt rotis unlike his sound, whole brothers, who were well-fed, loved and pampered. They got new clothes on Deepavali, but he did not. All he knew every day of his life were angry voices that berated him for his disability. Taking their cue from their aggrieved parents, his brothers tripped him, beat him up and jostled him from one end of the village to the other.

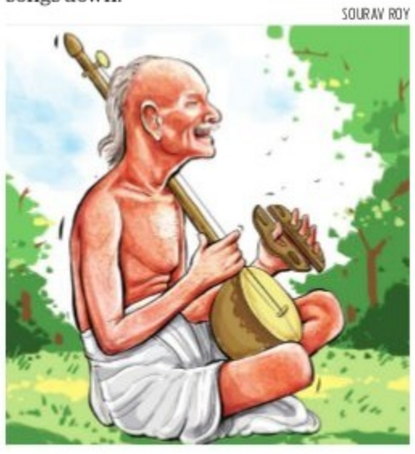
Once, when Sur was only six, they cuffed and pushed him to the village *chowk* or crossroad and told him not to come back. Sur subsided in an uncomplaining heap, not daring to even cry. By and by, a small troupe of travelling singers crossed the village. "O Krishna, dear Child, we love you with all our hearts. Let us feed you fresh, sweet butter," they sang. Sur's heart beat faster. Who was this lucky boy they sang about? He stumbled after them until they halted under some trees. They gave him food that night but stole away at dawn, not wanting to be burdened by him.

Sur wept in terror when he woke up and found himself alone. He did not know what to do and where to go. Luckily, he was found by a kind elderly woman who took him to the headman of her village nearby. The headman deeply pitied the forlorn scrap of humanity that cowered before him and instantly agreed when the woman, also out of pity, offered to keep Sur with her.

A new life began that day for Sur. He was no longer scolded or abused. He was fed well and given clean bedding to sleep on and proper clothes so that he no longer stood in rags. Sur began to pluck up courage in this kindly atmosphere, initially so alien. But when his friends were lovingly called home by their mothers, his heart would hurt and his eyes smart with tears.

Sur proved to have a knack for finding lost implements and stray cattle for the villagers. He also discovered that he could sing and compose verses. People gathered to listen to him and some even noted his songs down.

SOURAV ROY



> One spring, Sur sat singing on the grass outside the temple, enjoying the pleasant morning sunshine. Bees hummed and songbirds chirped from the flowering trees. But suddenly there was the sound of a child's anklet bells

All of Sur's songs were about Krishna. He was obsessed with him, and even jealous of this wonderful boy whom everybody loved despite his pranks, whereas he, Sur, was hated by his own parents for no fault of his.

Without realising it, Sur, who was nobody's child, steadily guilt-tripped Krishna in his songs, pointedly calling him 'Nand ke dulare' or 'Nanda's beloved child'. His obsession grew with every year until one day, unable to bear it any more, he set out to look for Krishna in his childhood home, Mathura-Vrindavan. The headman sent a boy to accompany Sur, but when they reached the forest of Madhuvan, the companion lost heart and turned back, leaving Sur to fend for himself.

Undaunted, Sur entered the forest, not minding the cuts and bruises when he tripped and fell. On his third day in Madhuvan, Sur suddenly fell into a hole in the ground. Unable to climb out, he desperately called aloud for help.

Suddenly, he heard a bright, boyish voice say, "Hold up your hands, I will pull you out." After he was set on his feet, Sur thanked his rescuer but got no reply. The boy had vanished. Unafraid now, Sur fell in with some ascetics who took him to the temple of Dwarkadhish in Mathura. There, to his great good fortune, he was taken charge of by an eminent holy man, Swami Vallabhacharya.

Sur was now set for life under the swami's kind protection. He sang every day in the temple and here, too, people began noting down his compositions. Many years passed this way and Sur grew old and grey. But he never stopped indirectly accusing Krishna of injustice. It was a lingering thorn in his heart but one day this too was plucked out. It happened this way…

One spring, Sur sat singing on the grass outside the temple, enjoying the pleasant morning sunshine. Bees hummed and songbirds chirped from the flowering trees. But suddenly there was the sound of a child's anklet bells. "How beautifully you sing, do sing more," said a bright, boyish voice.

Something in it made Sur say pitifully, "O Krishna, is that you? Why did you leave me alone all these years?"

"But I never left you. I came to you so often. Didn't you recognise me?" said the voice, "Never mind, do sing more."

Sur gulped and sang with tears pouring down his face. He heard a sweet, polite 'Thank you' and the anklet bells receding. But realisation had split Sur's heart wide open.

"Ah, Krishna, I was unjust to you," he cried. You came to me as the travelling singers, as my village guardians, as the boy in the woods, as Swami Vallabhacharya. But I could not see. You are the friendship of friends, the goodness of the good."

Thereafter, Sur lived out his life in great peace and happiness. His songs remain to inspire and encourage us that emotional well-being, the true aim of life, is at hand if we but look.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Cong must regain ground

Apropos of *Why Congress-mukt Bharat is not a mukti* (Dec 25). Like millions of democracy-loving Indians, the columnist disagreed with the idea of a Congress-*mukt* Bharat. AAP becoming the Congress' nemesis will be unhealthy for our vibrant democracy. AAP's politics of populism, tokenism, freebies, etc. will weaken our economy. The Congress must regain its political space in all states without taking things for granted.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Parties, freebies and economy

Apropos of *Why Congress-mukt Bharat is not a mukti* (Dec 25). It will not be that easy for the BJP to decimate the Grand Old Party. Compared to other regional political parties, the Congress is a better national alternative to the BJP. Other regional political parties are also in the freebies race, severely denting the state's economy.

S Arjun Prasanna, Bengaluru

Strong opposition a must

Surya Prakash is right when he analyses in his column that the Congress should not come to a position where its existence will be in question. For a stable economic and social setup, a strong opposition is needed.

Jitendranath Guru, Padampur

Rahul's politics

Apropos of *Rahul raps BJP, says it is stoking hatred* (Dec 25). Rahul Gandhi continues to live in a fool's paradise bereft of basic realities prevailing on the ground in terms of precautions that need to be taken in the wake of a new Covid variant. Playing politics at this juncture is utterly silly, irrelevant and definitely not in the interest of a united front that is required to keep the pandemic at bay.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Learning in mother tongue

Apropos of *'Mother tongue will help raise students' abilities'* (Dec 25). Learning the syllabi of technical and medical subjects in one's mother tongue will allow students to comprehend better. But regarding job opportunities, one doubts if employers will prefer them over candidates who have studied in English medium.

K Jayanthi, Chennai

Changing political sphere

Apropos of *Shrinking space for Parliament debates bad for democracy* (Dec 24). As stated in the editorial, Parliament has become a forum for mutual mudslinging. Healthy discussions are a thing of the past. The debates between Nehru and Kripalani are lessons for budding parliamentarians. There is no dearth of young talents like Tejasvi Surya, but who cares to listen to them?

G Nataraja Perumal, email

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Mayawati @Mayawati
Forcibly changing religion is bad and changing and getting it changed with bad intention are wrong. It's necessary to see this issue in right perspective.

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
It's shameful for Indians to read news portraying India as cringing before the Chinese "for talks" even as China has grabbed our undisputed territory.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Atal ji went to jail while fighting with the Britishers before independence. He never compromised on ideas. His thoughts are equally relevant today.

India switched to self-reliant mode in 2022: PM Modi

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

THE outgoing year 2022 has been inspirational and wonderful for India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his last 'Mann Ki Baat' episode of the year.

Expressing gratitude to the people, PM Modi said that it was the strength of the people of the country, their cooperation, their determination and success that made the outgoing 2022 an inspiring year.

The PM also made an appeal to the people to be more cautious as the Covid-19 has again started spreading in many countries.

Lauding the country's performances in 2022, the PM said: "In 2022, India completed 75 years of Independence and started observing the 'Amrit Kaal'. This year the country gained a new momentum."

He also said it attained the status of the world's fifth largest economy, achieved the record surpassing "incredible" figure of 220 crore Covid vaccine doses and crossed the "magical" export figure of $400 billion.

The country adopted and lived its resolution of 'self-reliant India' and welcomed its first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and also attained glory in space, drone and defence sectors in the year, he added. Extending the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' (one India, great India), many events were organised, he said, citing the Madhavpur Mela in Gujarat and the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi.

In 2022, the strength of people of the country, their cooperation, their resolve, their vast success was of such magnitude that it would be difficult to include all of those in 'Mann Ki Baat'. 2022 has indeed been very inspiring and wonderful in many ways

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Speaking about assuming the Presidency of G20, the PM said: "In 2023, we have to take the enthusiasm of G-20 to new heights, making this event a mass movement".

Modi greeted people on Christmas and for the upcoming New Year and also paid tributes to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"I am happy that in the era of evidence-based medicine, yoga and ayurveda are now standing up to the touchstone of tests of the modern era," he said.

Lung cancer jumped by 5% in last two years, says govt

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

THE lung cancer cases have gone up in India by over five per cent in the last two years while overall incidents of the life-threatening disease went up by over 34,000 in the previous year, according to the government figures.

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Bihar reported the maximum number of cases.

Among the southern states, the cancer caseload was most in Tamil Nadu, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.

The lung cancer cases have gone up from 98,278 in 2020 to 1,03,371 in 2022, registering a jump of 5.2 per cent, the government said in Parliament, quoting the Indian Council of Medical Research — National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP).

The maximum number of overall cancer cases — 2,10,958 in both men and women — were reported in Uttar Pradesh in 2022. In the same year, Maharashtra saw 1,21,717 instances, followed by West Bengal (1,13,851) and Bihar (1,09274).

In South India, Tamil Nadu topped the list with 93,536 cases, followed by 90,349 in Karnataka, 73,536 in Andhra Pradesh, and 59,143 in Kerala.

These four southern states have seen a rise in cancer cases since 2019. Tamil Nadu registered 86,596 cases in 2019, 88,866 in 2020, and 91,184 in 2021. Similarly, Karnataka 2019 reported 83,824 cases. In 2020, it went up to 85,968, while in 2020, the figure stood at 88,126.

LIFE THREATENING

The cases of lung cancer are on the rise, the government said in Parliament

98,278 cases reported in 2020

1,03,371 cases reported in 2022

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Bihar reported the maximum number of cases

2,10,958 cases were found in both men and women in UP in 2022, making it the maximum overall cancer case figure

There is no state where the numbers have come down, barring Lakshadweep

34,000 cases reported in the previous year alone

40-64 age group was the most affected by cancer

In 2019, Andhra Pradesh recorded 68,883 cancer cases, in 2020, it went up to 70,424, and in 2021 it touched 71,970.

Kerala in 2019 registered a total of 56148 cases in 2019, which went up to 57,155 in 2020 and 58,139 in 2021.

Among all the southern states, Telangana recorded a comparatively less number of cancer cases. In 2019, the state registered 46,464 cases. In 2020 it recorded 47,620, and in 2021, the instances touched 48,775.

There is no state where the numbers have come down, barring Lakshadweep, where 28 cases were reported in two consecutive years – 2021 and 22, one up from 2020.

The government said that risk factors for cancer include tobacco products, alcohol, insufficient physical activities, unhealthy diet, and air pollution.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), one in nine Indians is likely to have cancer in a lifetime, as the disease may jump by 12.8 percent from 2020 to 2025. It also said that the highest cases were reported in the 40-64 age group. Above 40 years of age, lung cancer was the topmost common cancer among men, while breast cancer topped females in all age groups.

"The cancer incidence is continuing to increase in India," ICMR said in its journal, *Indian Journal of Medical Research*.

Panel asks Centre to follow 'Buddha trail' to boost tourism

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A Parliamentary Committee on transport, tourism and culture has suggested the Centre to work on 'theme based' tourism activities especially 'Buddha trail' to boost travel and hospitality sectors.

In its report on "Role of Indian Missions Globally for the growth of Tourism in India" tabled in Rajya Sabha during recently concluded session of the House, the panel has also recommended measures to revive circuit tourism by organising familiarisation trips; Buddhist Circuit Family Tours and Conferences with the help of Indian Overseas Tourism Offices and Missions to boost tourism in the country.

"Various tourism circuits such as 'Buddhist Circuit' and 'Ramayana Circuit' can provide tourists with enriching religious experiences. The Committee also observes that in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, the importance of shorter distances in travel has become more pronounced and regional tourism is likely to grow. India should therefore leverage its cultural similarities such as the Buddha's trail with its neighbours," reads the report.

Bodh Gaya

After a review, the Committee appreciated tourism strategy; plans and targets for specific markets; however added that the tourism ministry "should adopt a proactive policy to promote internationally such tourist places in India at par with those abroad."

The panel made these observations after the ministry informed it that a programme implementation committee (PIC) under the chairmanship of the additional secretary (tourism) was set up to implement Incredible India Reconnect 2022 Campaign to position India as a preferred tourism destination. The other objectives of forming the PIC are to promote India as a 365-days destination and specific themes, destinations and products, submitted the ministry.

"General assessment of the earlier tourism promotional campaigns of India was that though impressive, they lacked focus on products and themes and failed to convey a clear cut message about India and that not much publicity was given to the new and urban India, its new developments and luxury properties. The Committee is pleased to note that the new strategic approach addresses these shortcomings and is tailored to suit specific markets," the panel noted.

The tourism ministry officials said efforts have already begun for tourism promotion with special focus on the Buddhist circuit. Activities are being planned at prominent sites related to Buddhism. Last year, events were held at Bodh Gaya and Varanasi.

Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, five projects worth ₹325.53 crore have already been sanctioned for Buddhist circuit development in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, according to the ministry.

GOVT IN PARL

Left wing extremism on decline

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

AS part of a well calculated multi-pronged strategy adopted to tame the influences of Left Wing Extremists (LWE), the government claims to have not only conducted operations through armed forces across the areas infected with red terror, but it also claims to have carried out development infrastructure projects there.

The government's steadfast implementation of the strategy has resulted in consistent decline in violence in LWE-infested areas by 77% in the last few years, MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in the Parliament recently.

Rai said: "The incidences of LWE violence have reduced by 77% from high of 2,213 in 2010 to just 509 in 2021."

Rai said that reduced violence has also resulted in fewer deaths of civilians and security forces by 85%.

Rai said that work orders have been issued also for the installation of 2,542 mobile towers in LWE affected areas apart from existing strength of mobile towers.

Transport ministry to keep track of highway bridges' health online

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE ministry of road transport and highways will develop an online platform — Bridge Management System (BMS) — to monitor 'health' of all bridges on the national highways (NHs) for which it has engaged a consultant.

During the recently concluded Parliament session, the ministry informed the Lok Sabha that inspection of the overpasses are principally carried out by the Mobile Bridge Inspection Unit for close access to different critical components and had roped in the consultant to set up an online monitoring platform for them.

The ministry's response was in response to queries about measures to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of old road infrastructure including bridges on NHs. Nitin Gadkari, minister of road transport and highways, stated in the House that repair, rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing NHs including old and distressed bridges are taken up annually.

According to the officials, the ministry has simultaneously launched initiatives to decide remedial measures for repair and re-strengthening of 'severely' damaged and precarious bridges across states for which it has set a three-month deadline.

Before deciding on curative action, the ministry will undertake a survey to identify bridges which are in dire need of repair. Road links, which are more than 50 years old, will be inspected immediately to assess the damage irrespective of their condition.

According to the statement of the minister of road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari given in Lok Sabha in 2017, there are more than 1.62 lakh bridges and culverts on the national highways.

Remedial measures for repair of damaged bridges: Officials

According to the officials, the ministry has simultaneously launched initiatives to decide remedial measures for repair and re-strengthening of 'severely' damaged and precarious bridges across states for which it has set a three-month deadline

Will sue those who have wronged me: Sobhraj

HOIHNU HAUZEL

Here is an extract of a candid and casual conversation with Charles Sobhraj who landed in Paris after serving a long jail sentence in Nepal:

Describe your first day in Paris.
In the last 48 hours, I slept only for two hours. I was so busy getting a new phone and a new sim. And then got into a conversation with my publisher over the title of my upcoming memoir which may be "I The Serpent" but I do not agree with it. So, this may change. My European publisher has made a consortium that includes a German, French, an Italian, and from the Netherlands. The rights of the book are with the consortium.

What was on your mind during the 14-hour flight from Kathmandu to Paris?
I was so glad that I got out of that place alive. Till the last moment there was a question mark on my mind. Only when I got into the plane, I feel safe. Then my mind relaxed. My life was attempted three times while I was inside the jail in Nepal. I was poisoned thrice. They thought I would die inside. In the Nepal cases I am absolutely innocent and we are going to prove it. On 7th April 1975, I was in Greece in a jail in Athens (from January 1975 to July 1975). There are recorded documents to prove that I was indeed in Greece and not in Nepal as falsely proven with fabricated documents. So, I said to myself that I was safe as I sat in the aircraft. Then after that the plan took off, I thought of all the things that I had to do including a case against Nepal and others including the BBC and Netflix for the portrayal of me in the series. I am not going to sit idle.

You spent the prime of your life behind bars. What are your biggest learnings while inside?
This is a bit of a philosophical question. My philosophy is, at every stage of your life, you have to learn more and more. The thirst for learning and knowledge has to increase. Even at this advanced age, it is even more important for me to learn more because I do not have enough time. I had mentioned earlier to you in our conversation that I was learning Mandarin and Korean — how to read and write both the languages. You may ask why. I admire the Chinese civilization which is very old and this admiration and respect led me to learn the language. Also, I am also from Vietnam, and it was part of China during the colonization and occupation of Vietnam, so I had a natural inclination to the language. As for Korea, after the war (1950-1953) the country was completely destroyed. Now it (South Korea) has become the 11th economy in the world and to hold a place as the top best highest technology countries in the world is a huge feat. I admire that kind of achievement, and I had to learn the language to communicate. I was also doing research for my future books not related to my life but on other topics and I already have two books in the pipeline.

How do you look at your past?
It is again a metaphysical question. If you look at your past like 'that' you will block yourself from going forward. You have to fight even though you cannot forget the past. You cannot ruminate over it nor meditate on it. For instance, I move on and I am planning to sue those I feel have wronged me. Like the state of Nepal, Netflix and BBC.

If you could turn the clock back, what would you change?
If you look back again and again, you are blocking yourself. One cannot go back there. If you do that, you will thwart all energies. At the same time, if you say it could have been different, it means you are insecure and you want to find excuses for yourself. But you cannot do that. However, if one has done anything wrong even with oneself, one has to recognise that wrong and make it right.

What are your immediate plans now that you are free?
Since the time I landed from Nepal, I barely had time to rest. I have been in discussions with my publisher and producers about my upcoming book. I wrote it when I was in Nepal and co-authored with Jean Charles who also edited the book. It is the true story of my life and written by myself for the first time. It would also cover a large part of my life in India's Tihar Jail and whatever I had written while in Tihar would be woven into this book.

(Hoihnu Hauzel is an independent journalist and founder of www.thenestories.com and www.northeastodyssey.com)

POWER GAMES

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Abuse of Privilege

GEHLOT TO BE CHARGED UNDER 420 IN LIQUOR SCAM

The Enforcement Directorate has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to prosecute Delhi transport minister Kailash Gehlot under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code for allowing his official bungalow to be occupied and used by a private person, Vijay Nair, who has emerged as the key dealmaker in the Delhi liquor scam. According to ED, Vijay Nair gave a statement under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, that he had been functioning from Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's camp office and residing in a government bungalow allotted to Delhi minister Kailash Gehlot, who was part of the Group of Ministers that cleared the controversial Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. The ED said Vijay Nair does not have any other residence in Delhi and Gehlot lives in a private residence in Najafgarh. Spelling out the offence committed by Gehlot, the ED said "when a person, who is a minister, is allotted a bungalow for the purpose of his residence, he is entrusted with the dominion of the property which is meant for his personal use as his residence. But when he dishonestly uses this property and allows someone else to use the same, it is a criminal breach of trust u/s 405 of IPC, punishable u/s 409 of IPC, since the minister is a public servant. Similarly, when a minister is allotted a government accommodation, he makes a representation that it will be used by himself, and allowing someone else to use the residence, who is not entitled to the same, amounts to false representation, an offence u/s 415 of IPC punishable u/s 420 of IPC." Since the ED is not empowered to investigate, it has furnished the information u/s 66(2) of PMLA to the CBI in consonance with the Supreme Court judgement in the matter of Vijay Madanlal Choudhary Vs Union of India.

Man Friday

SISODIA'S UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE TO LIQUOR TRADERS

The ED chargesheet filed in the Special Court of Judge M K Nagpal is full of interesting nuggets of information that throw light on the relations between the key accused. In a statement dated 10.09.2022, accused Sameer Mahendru, who held wholesale and retail licenses and is a beneficial owner of Indo Spirits, gave graphic details of a meeting called by Manish Sisodia, who holds the excise portfolio. "There was a meeting that was chaired by Manish Sisodia, Dy CM, wherein many retailers were present. When all the members reached and the convening officer asked the Dy CM to start the meeting, Sisodia said that they should wait for Dinesh Arora. Dinesh arrived late and was gestured by Sisodia to sit next to him. After that day, a message was received by the market that Dinesh Arora was close to the AAP, especially the Dy CM." Dinesh Arora figures as accused number 11 in the CBI's chargesheet in the liquor scam. The agency has found him to be involved in handling/transferring kickbacks. He was also summoned by the ED for examination under PMLA. In a statement dated 01.10.2022, Arora told the ED that "he had met Sanjay Singh through whom he came in contact with Manish Sisodia at a party in his (Arora's) restaurant Unplugged Courtyard." Arora told ED that before he was roped in for a role in liquor trade, he had raised Rs 82 lakhs from restauranteurs known to him and gave it to Sisodia as party funds. The ED claims that Arora has also admitted to hawala transactions in association with Vijay Nair. These transactions, running into crores, were carried out using currency note numbers and hawala traders in Delhi and Hyderabad whom he has named. Arora also worked closely with Nair to create partnerships/cartels for the South Group, which includes K Kavitha, daughter of Telangana CM K Chandrashekhar Rao. He has given details of his meetings with Kavitha in connection with Delhi liquor trade.

COW SANCTUARY

The Central government will build a cow sanctuary in Muzaffarnagar, Union minister Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said. It will be spread across 70 hectares of government land and will shelter more than 5,000 stray cattle.

2 HELD WITH 10KG HEROIN, DRONE IN CHANDIGARH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	14	Mumbai	30	21
Bhopal	27	11	Panaji	30	23
Jaipur	21	07	Patna	25	12
Amritsar	19	04	Lucknow	22	08
Chennai	30	25	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	29	18	Imphal	23	10
Srinagar	09	-6	Chandigarh	21	06

C'garh CM replies to Guv questions

Tribal quota Bill raising reservation to 76% should now get the Governor's go-ahead: Baghel

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AMID the prolonged disagreement over the reservation amendment bill, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** on Sunday said his government has replied to 10 questions asked by Governor **Anusuiya Uikey** on the proposed law.

"We have responded to the queries of the Governor, though there is no such procedure (to reply) laid down in the Constitution. She insisted that until she received the responses to her questions, she would not sign the bill. We think the assent should come now," said Baghel.

Raj Bhawan sources told this paper that the Governor's decision would come after she was convinced by the justifications given by the state government.

The special session of the state Assembly on December 2 unanimously passed and adopted by voice-vote the Chhattisgarh Public Service (ST-SC-OBC Reservation) Amendment Bill taking the quota in the state to 76% with the tribal share being raised to 32%. In the amendment bill, the proposed quota for Scheduled Caste is 13%, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) 27% and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) will get 4% reservations. Senior BJP leader Brijmohan Agrawal demanded the responses given to the Governor's questions be made public. The ruling Congress, claiming that the state government had taken every technical and legal ground into consideration ahead of adopting the bill in the House, has alleged that the BJP is indulging in politics on reservation using the Raj Bhawan.

> We have responded to the queries of the Governor, though there is no such procedure (to reply) laid down in the Constitution. We think the assent should come now
>
> Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh CM

The Governor ruled out any politics behind her decision. "Only after knowing the credible details and the reasons, I will consider giving the assent," she affirmed.

A controversy has erupted in the state on what is being looked upon as a delay on the part of the governor to sign the quota bills.

The ruling Congress has accused the opposition BJP of making attempts to stop approval of the bills and has demanded quick action on the part of the governor to resolve the lingering issue of caste-based quota in the state.

Critics of the proposed Bill say that even after the governor gives assent to the bill, it would be tough to implement its provisions as the Supreme Court has already put up a cap of 50% on reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and the Other Backward Classes. In September last year, the High Court set aside the state government's 2012 order to raise the quota to 58% in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions.

The court had said reservation exceeding the 50% ceiling was unconstitutional.

Following are the Governor's 10 questions:

- Was the opinion of the law department taken before bringing forth the reservation amendment bill?
- Under what conditions are the reservation over 50% binding?
- The report of the quantifiable data commission (on SC-ST) should be produced. Did the government aggregate the data while preparing the bills?
- What was the situation that led to increasing the quota limit beyond 50%?
- Was there a separate provision in the law brought for the EWS reservation?
- Was any committee constituted before raising the reservation ceiling?
- Why are the ST-SC candidates not being selected for state government jobs for the sanctioned posts?
- How do the STs/SCs lag behind socially, economically and educationally?
- Any report to ensure that the efficiency of the state administration would be maintained with the reservations?
- The high court in September this year quashed 58% reservation as "unconstitutional," how will the bill with a higher quota be defended?

Land deal: Fadnavis' Delhi trip triggers buzz on Maha allies

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AGAINST the backdrop of the Nagpur land scam leading to the Opposition's demand for Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation, the visit of BJP's deputy chief minister **Devendra Fadnavis** to Delhi is being considered significant. Sources said the top BJP leadership has taken the Nagpur Improvement Trust land issue seriously and wants Fadnavis' views on it.

"Shinde is unhappy with the Maharashtra BJP leadership for being unable to safeguard him in the controversy. The CM's son, Dr Shreekant Shinde, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed concern over some BJP leaders' statements and stressed the stability of the government," said a source.

"The PM has ensured full support to Shinde. Home Minister Amit Shah too has asked the state BJP leadership to extend all support to Shinde during the winter session of the state legislative assembly in Nagpur," said the source.

Those close to Shinde have blamed the BJP for adding fuel to the fire by asking questions in the Upper House of the assembly. "Without BJP support, the Opposition will not raise the issue, which is Nagpur-centric. It is anybody's guess as to how the Opposition has laid its hands on the documents on the first day of the winter session," said another source.

Sources said BJP leaders in Maharashtra are keen on Fadnavis' elevation as the chief minister. Some days back, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule demanded Fadnavis take over the state reins. Then, it was Bawankule who raised the NIT issue in the House.

"The BJP is also pushing for the Lokayukta bill covering the CM under the proposed legislation. There are many coincidences directly related to the BJP. Some BJP MLAs have said this was Shinde's last winter session," said a source.

"All of it has reached Shinde who burst out in anger in the House against NCP MLA Jayant Patil. The level of suspicion is growing in the Shinde camp," said the source.

GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

Our correspondent in Guwahati

prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

Petty crimes keeping city cops on their toes

The cases of mobile-snatching and other petty crimes have been on the rise in Guwahati. Unsuspecting pedestrians have lost their mobile phones, wallets and other valuables to thieves. They would come riding two-wheelers with fake registration numbers and snatch the valuables. New Police Commissioner Diganta Borah advised people to remain alert. He assured that all measures were being taken to ensure security to the citizens. In an incident two days ago, the police fired at two thieves, leaving them injured.

State looking to bring back elephants

Assam has the second highest number of elephants (5,719) after Karnataka (6,049), according to a 2017 census. Over the past 16 years, 97 Assam jumbos were sent to other states, primarily for religious activities, on lease for two-three years. However, many of them are overstaying the lease period. Giving out the figures in the Assembly, Forest Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said the pachyderms were sent to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Haryana, Odisha, and Jharkhand. He said the state government had been in touch with these states to bring back the jumbos.

Oppn livid over govt's 'conflicting figures'

The Opposition created an uproar on Saturday when the government told the Assembly that 30 people were killed in police actions in 26 incidents in the state from January last year. Last month, the government had told the Gauhati HC in an affidavit that there were 171 incidents of police firing from May last year to August this year in which 56 people were killed and 145 injured. The Opposition is livid that the government shared conflicting figures at two different forums. Delhi-based lawyer Arif Jwadder, who had earlier filed a PIL in the court, expressed surprise as most of the injured were criminals who were shot at for attempting to escape from police custody.

J&K parties back Pandit staff after L-G's 'no salary if sitting at home' remark

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER a recent statement by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha that those sitting at home won't be given salaries, the political parties have come in support of PM Package Pandit employees, who are on strike since May 12 this year to demand relocation from Kashmir in view of continued targeted killings by the militants in the Valley.

> The Pandit employees should be transferred to Jammu in view of their security apprehensions. And when the situation improves in the Valley, they can be brought back
>
> Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former CM

Senior J&K BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh said the government should address this issue in a sensitive manner.

"My personal view is that life is very precious. If there is a threat to even one life and to save one life, if about a dozen offices have to be closed, it should be done as saving life is more important," he said.

Former J&K CM and Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said the administration should accept the demand of PM package Pandit employees for the time being. "When they (Pandits) are satisfied that the situation in Kashmir has improved, they will return but they should not be compelled to work here".

Former J&K CM and Democratic Azad Party (DAP) president Ghulam Nabi Azad said unfortunately there were targeted killings in the Valley and life is most precious.

"The Pandit employees should be transferred to Jammu in view of their security apprehensions. And when the situation improves in the Valley, they can be brought back."

Farooq Abdullah, former CM and National Conference president said that the Lt Governor should understand the reason behind Pandit employees not willing to work in the valley. The Pandit employees don't want to go to Valley in view of security apprehensions, he said.

Upset cop shoots dead senior in C'garh district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raipur

A Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) head constable was killed when his subordinate opened fire at him with his service rifle after an altercation broke out between them in Kanker district, about 200km south of Raipur on Sunday.

The incident occurred at the government college where the 11th battalion of CAF was deployed on security duty during the recently-held bypoll in Bhanupratapur constituency in Kanker, the district police said. "As per the initial information, the CAF constable Purushottam Singh allegedly shot head constable Surendra Bhagat over some issues with his INSAS rifle.

Bhagat died on the spot. Singh has been taken into custody and further interrogation is being done to find the reason behind the incident," Shalabh Sinha, the superintendent of police, said. Singh had locked himself in a room with the weapon and he came out after being persuaded by senior officials. He was taken into custody, the police official said.

TMC to raise BSF's 'harsh actions' ahead of panchayat polls in Bengal

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

HOURS after a youth was shot dead by the Border Security Force in Cooch Behar on Saturday night, local ruling Trinamool Congress leaders said they planned to highlight incidents of alleged high-handedness of the Central force by reaching out to villagers near the India-Bangladesh border.

Representational image | PTI

The initiative is aimed at causing a dent in the BJP's north Bengal stronghold in the next year's panchayat election. In north Bengal, six of eight districts share a border with Bangladesh. TMC leaders say tensions frequently crop up when BSF personnel stop farmers from going to their fields beyond the fences, prevent them from cultivating tall crops of corn and jute citing security reasons, and allegedly assault villagers based on suspicion. "These are the issues that our party would raise in the panchayat polls," said a local TMC leader.

In north Bengal, the saffron camp bagged seven Lok Sabha seats out of eight in 2019 and 30 Assembly seats out of 54 in the last year's elections. A team of TMC leaders visited the house of Prem Kumar Barman (24) who was shot dead by the BSF on Saturday suspecting him a smuggler.

> Only those who have faced BSF's high-handedness can feel the plight of thousands of people living near the border. We'll raise our voice against humiliation and restrictions on villagers
>
> Udayan Guha, north Bengal development minister

The BSF said the deceased, along with some associates, was trying to smuggle cattle to Bangladesh and attacked a constable, who opened fire when he tried to dissuade them. Barman's family members said he was a migrant worker who returned from Bangalore.

"Those who have faced BSF's high-handedness can only feel the plight of thousands of people living near the borders. We will raise our voice against the humiliations, restrictions on movement and assault for no reason during our visit to the areas in six districts," said Udayan Guha, the north Bengal development minister who was elected from Dinhata, Cooch Behar, that shares border with Bangladesh.

The BSF recently faced protests from villagers in North Dinajpur district for not allowing them to walk up to the fences to meet friends and relatives at an annual event.

J'khand research body to study changes in natural tusker corridors

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

Representational image | EXPRESS

WITH an objective to understand the rising man-animal conflict in Jharkhand, the Tribal Research Institute (TRI) will conduct a study on the pattern of the changes in natural corridors of wild tuskers and factors leading to it.

According to TRI officials, the study is being conducted as the tribal community is the most affected due to man-animal conflict, which has claimed as many as 55 lives during the last one year.

"Due to industrialization, urbanization and progress in agricultural activities, the natural corridor of the elephants has been encroached due to which they had to change their original route further leading to man-animal conflict. Therefore, a study is being conducted to study the pattern of changes in the natural corridor of elephants in Jharkhand so that corrective measures could be taken," said TRI Director Ranendra Kumar.

Elephant corridors are linear, narrow, natural habitat passages that allow elephants to move between secure habitats without being disturbed by humans. The area from Saranda forests in West Singhbhum upto Dalma forests in East Singnhum is known as elephant zone in Jharkhand.

Jharkhand has been a hotspot for elephants in north India. But, in the last decade, the surge of unregulated and illegal mining and a spree of infrastructure development, have posed new challenges to the free movement of elephants. Moreover, the coal mining projects has largely affected the natural corridor of elephants as they create gaps in forest areas which compels the wild tuskers to move further towards human settlements increasing the possibility of man-animal conflict. According to the TRI director, to avert increasing man-animal conflict, the state government has directed district administrations to impose prohibitory orders in case a herd of elephant is spotted in any particular area so that the unruly crowd may be prevented from getting nearer to the tuskers.

MADHYA PRADESH

Girl assaulted for saying no to marriage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A 19-year-old girl was assaulted mercilessly by a 24-year-old man allegedly over refusal to marry him in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. The act was filmed by another man. Both the accused, have been arrested.

The 1.32-minute video, which went viral, shows the man identified as Pankaj Tripathi, a driver, walking with the girl hand in hand. Suddenly, Tripathi starts verbally abusing the girl before assaulting her.

According to Rewa district additional SP (ASP) Anil Sonkar, both the accused and the girl were close friends for a year, but the girl's family refused to marry her with the accused. "Perhaps enraged by the refusal by the girl's family to marry her to him, the accused assaulted her brutally. He along with his aide has been booked under IPC Sections 363, 366, 323, 294, besides provisions of IT Act," the ASP said.

Sacked worker arrested for stabbing Surat factory owner, 2 others to death

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

A sacked embroidery worker in Gujarat's Surat stabbed to death the firm owner, his father, and his uncle, police said on Sunday, adding they have arrested two suspects, one of them a juvenile.

The suspects were said to be angry with his former employer for sacking him recently.

Surat Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 5) Harshad Mehta told the media that Kalpesh Dholakia owned an embroidery unit.

"On Sunday around 9 a.m., the retrenched worker whose services were terminated 10 days ago came to the factory along with his associate. They had heated arguments with Dholakia, which soon turned into a scuffle. During the fight, one of the two accused stabbed Dholakia with a knife," said the police officer. "Kalpesh's father Dhanjibhai and maternal uncle Ghanshyam Razodia, who were present during the scuffle, intervened but they too were stabbed. The two then fled," said Mehta.

He cited the CCTV footage, which shows the accused walking into the factory compound armed with sharp weapons and stabbing the victims multiple times. Another Deputy Commissioner of Police Pinakin Parmar told the media that the worker was terminated from his services because of some mistakes that he had made during his night duty hours. That apparently damaged the production.

"Preliminary information was that the industrial unit owner had paid all his dues before terminating the suspect's services," said Parmar.

Those killed have been identified as Kalpesh Dholakia (36), Dhanji Dholakiya (61), and Ghanshyam Rajodiya (48).

BJP dares CM to start yatra from Saran

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BJP on Sunday took a dig at Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's proposed state-wide 'yatra' against liquor consumption and other issues by asking him to start it from Saran district, where nearly 80 people died in hooch tragedy.

Senior BJP leader and former minister Neeraj Kumar 'Babloo' said, "Nitish as a CM should definitely undertake yatra but it will be better if he starts it from Chhapra (district headquarters of Saran). Nitish should meet family members of those who died in the hooch tragedy and provide them compensation."

During his yatra, Nitish may like to check whether social acceptability of prohibition had declined in the state due to a series of hooch tragedies. Though there is no official announcement about Nitish's proposed yatra, it is believed that its schedule would be announced after 'kharmas' (considered as inauspicious in Hindu calendar). It ends on January 13.

Putin says ready for talks, claims West is blocking it

Russian President says he is acting in right direction in Ukraine

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin in an interview on Sunday said that Russia is ready to talk to all the parties involved in the war in Ukraine, while accusing Ukraine and its western allies of 'refusing' to negotiate.

Speaking in an interview with *Rossiya 1* state television, Putin said, "We are ready to negotiate with everyone involved about acceptable solutions, but that is up to them—we are not the ones refusing to negotiate, they are.

He also said that Russia was acting in the 'right direction' in Ukraine because the west, led by the US, was trying to cleave Russia apart. He continued, "I believe that we are acting in the right direction, we are defending our national interests, the interests of our citizens, our people. And we have no other choice but to protect our citizens." Putin also blasted the West for trying to 'tear apart' Russia and said his offensive in Ukraine aimed to "unite the Russian people".

Russian President used the concept of 'historical Russia' to argue that Ukrainians and Russians are one people—undermining Kyiv's sovereignty and justifying his 10-month offensive in Ukraine.

He said Russia's "geopolitical opponents (were) aiming to tear apart Russia, the historical Russia."

"Divide and conquer, that's what they have always sought to accomplish and are still seeking to do," Putin added. "But our goal is different: it's to unite the Russian people."

"Of course we will destroy it, 100 percent!" Putin said, referring to the Patriot missile battery promised to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky by the US.

Meanwhile, Iran's top general has said that Western claims its drones are being used by Russia against Ukraine show the 'effectiveness' of Tehran's unmanned aerial vehicles.

Kyiv and its Western allies have accused Russia of using Iranian-made drones to carry out attacks against Ukraine, causing damage to civilian and energy infrastructure.

In response, Western nations have sanctioned Iranian firms and military generals, including chief of the staff of Iran's armed forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri.

"Today's atmosphere-creating by the world of arrogance (a reference for the US) regarding the use of Iranian drones in the Ukraine war, is part of the enemy's psychological warfare," Bagheri said. *Agencies*

Sviatohirsk Cave Monastery, an Orthodox Christian monastery, partially damaged by shelling in Donetsk region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine | AFP

ICY WINDS OF WAR ARE BUFFETING HUMANITY, SAYS POPE IN MESSAGE

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis used his Christmas message on Sunday to lament the 'icy winds of war' buffeting humanity and to make an impassioned plea for an immediate end to the fighting in Ukraine, a 10-month-old conflict he decried as 'senseless.'

At noon in Rome, Francis delivered the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (Latin for "'to the city and to the world") speech from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Francis also cited long-running conflicts in the Middle East, including in the Holy Land, "where in recent months, violence and confrontations have increased, bringing death and injury in their wake." In addition, he prayed for a lasting truce in Yemen and for reconciliation in Iran and Myanmar, and cited violence and conflicts in Africa's Sahel region. He lamented that on Christmas, the 'path of peace' is blocked by social forces that include "attachment to power and money, pride, hypocrisy, falsehood."

"Indeed, we must acknowledge with sorrow that, even as the Prince of Peace is given to us, the icy winds of war continue to buffet humanity," Francis said.

"If we want it to be Christmas, the birth of Jesus and of peace, let us look to Bethlehem and contemplate the face of the child who is born for us," he said. "And in that small and innocent face, let us see the faces of all those children who, everywhere in the world, long for peace."

Francis urged the faithful to remember the millions of Ukrainians who were without electricity or heating Sunday because of Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, as well as the millions more living as refugees abroad or displaced within their country since the invasion ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Let us also see the faces of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, who are experiencing this Christmas in the dark and cold, far from their homes due to the devastation caused by 10 months of war," the pontiff said as he gestured toward those in the crowd waving small Ukrainian flags. The pope prayed that the Lord will "enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons and put an immediate end to this senseless war!"

Francis said he was particularly thinking of Haiti, where nearly 100,000 people in the capital have fled gang-related violence.

He prayed that Christmas would "inspire political authorities and all people of good will in Americas to attempt to calm the political and social tensions experienced by various countries." *AP*

Pope Francis delivers Christmas' day blessing from the main balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Sunday | AP

UKRAINIANS EMBRACE X'MAS IN DECEMBER

Church bells and chanting rang throughout Ukraine's capital as Orthodox Christians attended Christmas services on Sunday, a defiant break from Russian religious leaders who will mark the holiday in next two weeks. Worshippers lit candles and lined up to give confession on Sunday morning.

MALAYSIANS GATHER AT CHURCHES AFTER 2 YEARS

After celebrating Christmas online for two years, around 500 people visited the 119-year-old Catholic Church and the Holy Rosary in Jalan Tun Sambanthan to attend Mass. The Immaculate Conception Church in Johor opened its doors as early as 7.30 am to welcome parishioners.

KING CHARLES HOSTS FIRST TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

King Charles III is hosting his first traditional family Christmas as monarch on Sunday at the Sandringham royal estate for the first time. The family began the day with a morning service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, greeting royal fans before sitting down to a family dinner with turkey.

Shooting at UK pub kills 1 woman, 3 injured

WALLASEY

A Christmas Eve shooting at a pub in northwest England killed a young woman and wounded three men, police said on Sunday.

The Merseyside Police force said it was investigating the 11.50 pm on Saturday shooting at the Lighthouse pub in the town of Wallasey as a murder case. Police have not detained any suspects.

"This investigation is in the very early stages, and we understand that this is a truly shocking and devastating incident that has happened just before Christmas Day in a busy venue full of young people," Detective Superintendent David McCaughrean said.

The woman died at a hospital "with an injury consistent with a gunshot wound," the police force said in a statement. Along with the three men wounded, several people were injured, according to the statement.

Investigators were seeking witnesses as well as cellphone video and closed circuit television footage to figure out what happened, McCaughrean said.

"We believe that the gunman left the pub car park in a dark colored vehicle, possibly a dark coloured Mercedes shortly after the shooting, and we are keen to hear from anyone who saw this to contact us immediately," he said.

The minister of a nearby church told *Press Association* that the shooting will come as a shock to local residents because of where the pub is located.

"We've got a lot of young people, families in that area. The Lighthouse is central in that community," Jeffrey Hughes, minister of the United Reformed Church, said.

Gun violence is comparatively rare in Britain, where most police officers do not carry guns. *AP*

Three global NGOs suspend Afghanistan ops

File photo of Afghan women chant slogans during a protest against the ban on university education for women in Kabul, Afghanistan | AP

KABUL

THREE major international aid groups on Sunday suspended their operations in Afghanistan following a decision by the country's Taliban rulers to ban women from working at NGOs.

Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE said they cannot effectively reach children, women and men in desperate need in Afghanistan without the women in their workforces. The NGO ban was introduced a day earlier, allegedly because women weren't wearing the Islamic headscarf correctly.

"We have complied with all cultural norms and we simply can't work without our dedicated female staff, who are essential for us to access women who are in desperate need of assistance," Neil Turner, the Norwegian Refugee Council's chief for Afghanistan, said. He said the group has 468 female staff in the country.

The US warned the NGO ban will disrupt vital and life-saving assistance to millions.

"Women are central to humanitarian operations around the world," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "This decision could be devastating for the Afghan people."

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was deeply disturbed by reports of the NGO ban. "The United Nations and its partners, including national and international non-governmental organisations, are helping more than 28 million Afghans who depend on humanitarian aid to survive," he said.

Germany's foreign minister on Sunday called for a "clear reaction from the international community" as Afghanistan's ruling Taliban banned women from working in NGOs after preventing them from attending university. "Those who exclude women and young girls from work, from education and from public life not only ruin their country...We will try to get a clear reaction from the international community," Annalena Baerbock said.

The International Rescue Committee said it was dismayed by the decision, adding that more than 3,000 of its staff in Afghanistan are women. It was not clear if it is suspending operations. *Agencies*

SHANKAR TOOLS AND COMPONENTS
No. 1013, Nagarbhavi, BDA Layout, 2nd Stage, 9th Block, BBMP Ward No 73, Bangalore -560072 Karnataka

Form URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies at Bengaluru, Karnataka, that our Partnership Firm, SHANKAR TOOLS AND COMPONENTS, may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares, under the name STAC MOLDTECH PRIVATE LIMITED.
2. The Principle objects of the company are as follows:- Manufacture of plastic molded components and Injection molded components.
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and article of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at No. 1013, Nagarbhavi, BDA Layout, 2nd Stage, 9th Block, BBMP Ward No 73, Bangalore -560072 Karnataka.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurugram (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the firm /company at its registered office mentioned above.

Dated this **26th day of December, 2022.**

Sd/-
1. C V Shankar (Partner)
2. C V Padmaja (Partner)

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the **Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.)** has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within **60 days** from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:

Name of the Borrower(s) /Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Jha, Mrs.Aadya Kumari (Prospect No IL10142702)	21-Dec-22 & Rs.48,90,222/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Ninety Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Flat A2115, Floor No. 21, T1A, Carpet area admeasuring 700 Sq. Ft., Super Built-up area admeasuring 1000 Sq. Ft., Tower-1A, GM Global Techies Town Project, Situated at Thirupalya Margondanahalli Village and Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Electronic City Phase-I, Bangalore-560100
Mr. Sunil Kumar Tiwari Mrs. Lata Mishra (Prospect No IL10014145)	22 - Dec - 2022 Rs.22,84,944 /-(Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Flat No. A 402, 4th Floor, 16th Tower, admeasuring 317.2 Sq. Ft. (Land Area) & 462 Sq. Ft. (Carpet Area) & 656 Sq. Ft. (Super Built Up Area), Janaadhar Shubha Phase, M Medehalli Village, Anekal Taluk Bangalore , Banga, Karnataka, India-562106. Bounded By-East-Lands in Survey No. 43, West-Road, North-Mayasandra Gadi, South-Lands in Survey No. 41.

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office : "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, RichmondRoad, Bengaluru-560025. / or Corporate Office: IIFL Tower,/ Corporate Office: IIFL Tower,** Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place:Bangalore, Date : 26-12-2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

IN THE COURT OF FAMILY COURT NO. 2 PUNE
Petition A : 1165 /2020
Exh.No. 20 , Court Date : 25-01-2023

SARIKA SANTOSH KUMAR BASUTHKAR ...PETITIONER
V/S
SANTOSH KUMAR PANDRANG BASUTHKAR ...RESPONDENT

MR. SANTOSH KUMAR PANDRANG BASUTHKAR, C/o Prince Jacob Samuel.Lowry Tamil Chaurch Campus, Dooravaninagar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore, Karnakata.

Whereas the above named **petitioner Sarika Santosh Kumar Basuthkar as filed for Divorce AU/S 10 I(ix)and (x) of The Divorce Act 1856, Filed a Petition against You.**

You are hereby given notice to appear in this **family Court, Pune in Person to file your appearance in Court at 11.am on the date 25 January 2023** failing which the petition will be heard in your absence and determined exparty.

Given under my hand & seal of the court this 13-12-2022.

By Order Of The Court, Registrar Family Court, Pune.

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
FDP NO. 25005 OF 2020

BETWEEN
MRS. ZAINAB TAYYABA AND ANOTHER PETITIONERS
AND
MR. ZAID HUSSAIN GULZER AND OTHERS RESPONDENTS

NOTICE

To
LRs of RESPONDENT No. 1 namely late ZAID HUSSAIN GULZAR
RESPONDENT NO. 1(a)
SMT. ABIDA GULZAR, aged about 47 years, wife of late Zahid Hussain Gulzar
RESPONDENT NO. 1 (b)
SMT. HEENA, aged about 42 years wife of late Zahid Hussain Gulzar
RESPONDENT NO. 1 (c)
SMT. SULTANA also called SITHANA aged about 40 years, wife of late Zahid Hussain Gulzar
RESPONDENT NO. 1 (d)
SRI. AYUB HUSSAIN aged about 34 years, wife of late Zahid Hussain Gulzar
RESPONDENT NO. 1 (e)
SRI. ARBIA GULZAR aged about 12 years, daughter of late Zahid Hussain Gulzar, since Minor represented by her mother Mrs. Abida Gulzar.
all are residing at No.2, 12th Cross, Chinnappa Garden Bengaluru-560 045.

WHEREAS the Petitioners have filed a Petition in FDP No. 25005 of 2020 against the Respondents on the file of the XXVI Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge Mayohall, Bangalore, praying for enquire into mesne profit as decreed in OS No. 27545 of 2009 til handing over the possession and other consequential reliefs. The Hon'ble Court has issued Notice to LRS of Respondent No.1 through RPAD. The RPAD Postal Covers have been returned with Shara **"ADDRESS LEFT".**

Therefore I hereby issuing this Notice and calling upon the Respondent No.1(a) to 1(e) to be present before this Hon'ble Court on **07.02.2023 at 11:00 AM** failing which the matter will be decided in your absence and you will be set ex-parte.

Given under the hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on the 22nd day of December Two Thousand Twenty Two (2022).

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Assistatnt Registrar
City Civil Court Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONERS
MR. RAHUL CARIAPPA K S Advocate
201, Commerce House 9/1 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM WORK BRANCH
E-TENDER NOTICE No.V/W/TVC/29/2022 dated 23.12.2022

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in The tenderer(s)/ contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No	Description	Approx. value (₹ in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of completion in months
1	TVC Division - Proposed Regirdering with new metallised girder of Br. No. 191 Up & Dn. 1 x 18.30m), 198 Up & Dn. (1x18.30m) in SRR-ERS section and Br. No.296 (2x18.30m) in ERS-KTYM-KYJ section - Erection of 6 spans and supply of channel sleepers.	152.18	226100	FOUR
2	Manual Deep screening of track in Trichur P.Way section	60.00	120000	SIX
3	Improvement to gate lodges and water connections at LCs in ADEN/ERS sub division.	93.59	187200	TWELVE
4	Improvement to gate lodges and water connections at LCs in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Trichur sub division.	94.16	188300	TWELVE
5	Destressing of LWR in Ernakulam sub division	52.25	104500	TWELVE
6	Trivandrum Division - Provision of office accommodation for Sr. Section Engineer/Junior Engineer/Signal & Tele in S&T branch at Nanguneri,Kochuveli, Karunagapally & Sherthala	54.07	108200	TWELVE
7	(1) Construction of OHE depot at Quilon (2) Quilon sub - division - Improvements to platform surface	67.85	135700	SIX
8	TTR (TWS+CMSC)-19 sets (1 in 12-6 sets, 1 in 8.5-13 sets.) TTR (CS+CMSC)-12 sets (1 in 8.5-10 sets, 1 in 12-2 sets) and TTR(DS) - 8 sets in Sr.Divisional Engineer/North Jurisdiction	188.79	244400	TWELVE
9	Trivandrum Division - Divisional Engineer/ North Jurisdiction - Provision of Passenger Lifts at Guruvayur-2 Nos (PF-1&2) (Balance Work).	16.28	32600	TWO
10	Divisional Engineer/South Jurisdicion: Providing Water connections at LCs.	55.82	111600	TWELVE
11	Alwaye - Augmentation of Water Supply scheme	228.71	264400	TWELVE

Tender Closing date and time: Item No. 1 to 11: 23/01/2023 at 11.00 hrs

Details approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal www.ireps.gov.in". For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr.Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Trivandrum-14
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited
Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, Abhijeet-V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad-380006.
Ph: +91-79-40011000. CIN No.U67120GJ1995PLC025373.
Head Office: # 835/39, 5th Floor, Bren Mercury, Kaikondanahalli, Sarjapur Main Road, Bengaluru-560035, Karnataka. Phone: +91-80-42504444. www.fincarebank.com

APPENDIX IV - [See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd.** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2000 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued Demand Notices for calling upon the Borrowers, Mortgagers, Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notice amount within 60 days (Sixty days) from the date of the said demand notice.

The Borrowers, Mortgagers, Co-borrowers and Guarantors mentioned herein above having failed to repay the said demand notice amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken Symbolic Possession** of the property/properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section 4 of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The Borrowers attention is invite to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers, Mortgagers, Co-borrower sand Guarantors mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/properties will be subject to the charge of the **Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd.** for an amounts and further interest and other charges thereon till the date of recovery.

Sl. No.	Borrowers, Mortgagers, Co-obligants and Consentors	Possession Date	Total Outstanding Amount
1	**1. Mr./Mrs. Narayanaswamy V, 2. Mr./Mrs. Nandeesh Kumar N. Demand Notice Date: 29-09-2021. Loan A/c No. 18660000017981** **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing the katha no.190/203/127/1, Situated at Jyothipura Village, Manduru Gramapanchayath, Manduru Post, Bidharahallli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. Measuring East to West: 37 ft and North to South: 30 ft Total measuring 1110 Sq.ft. and bounded on the, **East by:** Property of Munirajappa, **West by:** Passage, **North by:** Property of Ramesh & Gopal, **South by:** Road.	**Possession taken on: 22-12-2022**	**Rs.4,24,867/-** as on 25-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon
2	**1. Mr./Mrs. Shaikh Babu, 2. Mr./Mrs. Shanu Begum, 3.Mr/Mrs. Khadar, 4. Mr/Mrs. Muburak, Demand Notice Date: 02.07.2019, Loan A/c No. 66170000037867** **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site No.198, BBMP Limits Khatha 272/262/55/198, Sy.No.55, Doddabettahalli Village, Yelhanka Hobli, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 20 feet and Northt to South: 30 feet and totally measuring 600 sq.ft.along with present and future construction therein and bounded on the, **East by:** Nannu Bachya's house, **West by:** Gally, **North by:** Tajunbi's house, **South by:** Gally.	**Possession taken on: 22-12-2022**	**Rs.3,53,560/-** as on 17-06-2019 further interest and other charges thereon
3	**1. Mr./Mrs. Madhu, 2. Mr./Mrs. Venkateshappa, 3. Mr./Mrs. Achanna, Demand Notice Date: 29-09-2021, Loan A/c No. 19660000127382** **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing No.34-509-402, No.416/408/407/3853/136 situated at 1st Main Akkupete, Ward No.23 Devanahalli Town Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore Rural District. Measuring East to west 30 feet and North to South 20Feet and Totally Measuring 600 Square Feet. and bounded on the, **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.135, **North by:** Site No 137, **South by:** Private Property.	**Possession taken on: 22-12-2022**	**Rs.5,61,915/-** as on 25-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon
4	**1. Mr./Mrs. Mr. Ashoka V (Jt A/c HLR), 2. Mr./Mrs. Lakshmamma A, 3. Mr./Mrs. Venkataramanappa C N. Demand Notice Date: 09-12-2021, Loan A/c No. 66170000042837** **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that piece and aprcel of property bearing No.05, Katha No.40, Assessment No.30, Ganigarahalli Village, Yeshwantahpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP and measuring East to West: 30 + 20 /2 ft and North to South: 40 ft , totally measuring 1000 Sq.ft. **and bounded on the, East by:** Property No.04, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Piple line Road, **South by:** Property No.6.	**Possession taken on: 22-12-2022**	**Rs.6,07,023/-** as on 30-11-2021 further interest and other charges thereon
5	**1. Mr./Mrs. Ramamurthy R V, 2. Mr./Mrs. Vijayamma, 3. Mr./Mrs. Venkatareddy. Demand Notice Date: 28-03-2022, Loan A/c No. 20660000054962 & 20660000211318** **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Khanshumari Janjur No. 44 Property No. 68, New E Kahta No. 1503002011400200062, Khata No. 44/68, Measuring Est to West 40 Feet X North to South 63 Feet, Situated at Reddihalli Village Bettkote Grama Panchayath, Channarayapatnaobli Devanahalli Taluk. Total Measuring 2520 Feet. **and bounded on the: East by:** House of Hori Venkatappa, **West by:** House of Nanjegowda, **North by:** Housesof Chikkaseethappa and Kariyappa, **South by:** Village Road.	**Possession taken on: 22-12-2022**	**Rs.8,75,220/-** as on 24-03-2022 further interest and other charges thereon

Date: 26-12-2022 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd.**

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₹11,557 cr have been infused in Indian equities by FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) in December so far

Mutual funds to expand with execution-only platforms

The EOPs have gained popularity as they kept transaction procedures easy for investors, and this will also attract new players in MF industry

SACHIN KUMAR @Mumbai

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) renewed push to Execution Only Platforms (EOPs) will fuel innovation and attract new players into the mutual fund industry.

The proposed regulations by the capital market regulator last week will bring much needed clarity on the issues related to EOPs and expand the mutual fund sector by widening the reach of MF products.

Last week the capital market regulator announced the introduction of the regulatory framework for the EOP for direct mutual fund schemes.

What is execution-only platform

Execution-only platforms only perform the execution of orders and do not provide other services like in-house research, advice, etc. A number of entities including Investment Advisers (IAs) and stock brokers, offer execution services in direct plans of MF schemes, through digital mode.

Presently, there is no regulatory framework in place to facilitate the provision of such 'execution only services' in direct plans of MF schemes, independent of the regulatory requirements applicable to IAs and stock brokers.

"Under the approved framework, EOPs may be granted registration under either of the two categories - Category 1 EOP as an agent of AMCs, registered with AMFI or Category 2 EOP as an agent of Investor, registered as a stock broker," said Sebi.

The clarity in guidelines for service providers will instil more confidence among the stakeholders in the mutual fund industry, which in turn will attract new players, say experts. "Any effort on the part of the regulator to further investor interest is welcome. The recent framework for EOP is a step in the right direction. Regulating these platforms will give investors more confidence to transact through them," Rahul Jain, President & Head, Nuvama Wealth told TNIE.

"Even service providers will now have clear guidelines to follow, and that will bring in standardisation in the whole process. It will certainly bring in more players and more innovation. I think this initiative on the part of the regulator will be a win-win for investors and service providers," added Jain.

Pros and cons

One of the biggest benefits for retail investors will be convenience and safety of investment. The EOPs have gained popularity as they kept transaction procedures easy for investors. Allowing the platform to charge fees is another big highlight of the new guidelines which will attract new service providers.

"Both of the registration categories - Category 1 EOP as an agent of AMCs registered with AMFI or Category 2 EOP - may be used for EOPs. The platforms will be permitted to collect fees for either of the categories. This should draw new players to the platform industry that provides direct mutual fund schemes," Manoj Kumar Dalmia, Founder and Director, Proficient Equities said.

However, these guidelines have left many unanswered issues for service providers and they are waiting for more circulars to get clarity.

"In this circular about EOPs, Sebi is now talking about how they can implement cyber security for customers, mechanism of pricing and service, grievance redressal and appropriate investor protection mechanism, which is very appreciable," Suvajit Ray, Head of Products at IIFL Securities said. "We are waiting for more circulars from the Sebi regarding these guidelines," he added.

The mutual fund sector has been able to sustain its growth momentum despite facing pressure due to pandemic-induced slowdowns in the economy.

According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data, the Asset Under Management (AUM) of the mutual fund industry crossed ₹40 lakh crore for the first time ever and rose to all-time high levels in November 2022 to ₹40.4 lakh crore from ₹39.5 lakh crore in October 2022.

The rise in AUM was predominantly due to mark-to-market gains in equity-oriented funds.

The AUM of equity-oriented funds by the end of November 2022 was at ₹15.6 lakh crore compared to ₹15.2 lakh crore in October 2022. Inflows during November 2022 fell sharply to ₹2,250 crore from ₹9,390 crore in October 2022.

Showing strong growth in the longer period, the industry has doubled AUM in the last five years. The MF industry's AUM has grown from ₹22.79 lakh crore as on November 30, 2017 to ₹40.4 lakh crore as on November 30, this year.

Along with the value, the participation of investors has also risen significantly. The total number of accounts (or folios as per mutual fund parlance) as on November 30, 2022 stood at 13.98 crore, while the number of folios under Equity, Hybrid and Solution Oriented Schemes, wherein the maximum investment is from retail segment, stood at about 11.18 crore.

The mutual fund industry had crossed a milestone of 10 crore folios during the month of May 2021.

SUSTAINED GROWTH MOMENTUM

₹40.4 lakh crore AUM of mutual fund industry as on Nov 2022

₹15.6 lakh crore AUM of equity-oriented funds as on Nov 2022

₹39.5 lakh crore AUM of mutual fund industry as on Oct 2022

₹13.98 crore Total number of accounts (folios) as on Nov end 2022

₹10 crore Total number of folios as on May 2021.

₹22.79 lakh crore AUM of mutual fund industry as on Nov 30, 2017

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO AVOID LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

YOUR investments are a function of two primary emotions: greed and fear. The two paramount emotions drive asset prices. In the stock market, the fear of loss keeps 98% of Indians away. At the same time, greed gets more people into the market. Less than 1% of traders make money, as we know now.

The fear of losing money is expected. If you search online, you will find that mental conditions push people to avoid spending money due to such fears.

You may be risk averse, but at some stage, you must learn to convert that fear into an opportunity.

Money is made or lost when markets are greedy or fearful. You must learn about preparing yourself to deal with the situation.

There are several ways you can avoid losses while investing. While it is not possible to eliminate losses in investing, you can certainly minimise them.

Cut your losses

If you lose money on any asset, you must get rid of it quickly. Sometimes, you may not be aware of the market value of your investments. In that situation, you need to list your assets and create an estimate of the value. Compare it to your cost of acquisition and review. There are several questions you need to ask yourself.

For most people, a fundamental reason to own a loss-making asset is more emotional than rational. If you can put mind over matter, you can cut those losses. If you own more than two houses and are struggling to manage the upkeep, that is a signal to rationalise your ownership of homes. Similarly, if you own a disproportionate amount of gold, you must convert some of that into financial assets. You can also sell excess physical gold and buy sovereign gold bonds or exchange-traded funds.

A similar rule should apply to your financial assets. You must work with a professional advisor to organise your investments. Shares of companies that have been underperforming for far too long should be done away with. Sometimes you indulge in 'over-diversification' and buy too many mutual fund schemes.

Try to own less than 10 MF-schemes across multiple asset classes.

Identify suitable instruments based on your financial goals and invest. There is a school of thought that you should double your bet if prices fall. However, you need adequate knowledge and confidence to execute such a strategy. It is better to avoid taking action based on hearsay.

Learn from your mistakes

Losing money at a young age is not such a bad thing. You have an opportunity to rebuild your savings and investments. Even if you lose some money later, there are lessons you can learn. Keep a close watch on your assets and review them regularly with the help of a professional advisor. Money spent on quality advice is like prevention in healthcare. You do not want to spend money on fixing things later.

Investing is all about knowledge. You cannot say you are unaware when your money is at stake. It is your hard-earned money, and it deserves your attention. While it is not necessary to be an expert, you can learn to connect the dots by reading more about the market and economic trends. It is better to take charge of your money affairs than rely on the advice of neighbours or friends.

What you can do

Financial planning helps you take control of the situation if you think your money is not working enough for you. While a professional can help you structure it, you must follow your plan. You cannot stop your systematic investments or sell something in a panic situation. You must not let emotions get on top of you.

While we can talk of ways you can take the proper steps or investment decisions to avoid losses, patience is a virtue that can go a long way. 'Getting rich slow' is a proven mantra of Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor. You can cut your losses by reading about him and his communication with his shareholders. Knowledge is a potent tool for managing money.

MONEY-WISE

ELSS FUNDS – A PERFORMANCE SCAN

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

IN the last column, we commenced a discussion on Equity Linked Saving Schemes (ELSS) and its positioning as a pure Equity option for Tax Saving.

Let us now zero in on the performance of some randomly selected ELSS funds over the mandatory lock-in period of 3 years as well as over a longer voluntary holding period of 5 years.

Quant Tax Plan has an AUM of ₹2,327 crore. It currently holds Large Caps (72%), Mid Caps (25%) and Small Caps (3%). This fund has delivered returns of 39.44% over 3-years and 22.17% over 5-years.

Canara Robeco Equity Tax Saver Fund has an AUM of ₹4,583 crore. It currently holds a mix of Large Caps (78%) and Mid Caps (21%) and Small Caps (1%). This fund has delivered returns of 20.58% over 3-years and 15.15% over 5-years.

Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund has an AUM of ₹14,255 crore. It currently holds a mix of Large Caps (70%) and Mid Caps (24%) and Small Caps (6%). This fund has delivered returns of 19.06% over 3-years and 13.92% over 5-years.

Kotak Asset Tax Saver Fund has an AUM of ₹3,163 crore. It currently holds a mix of Large Caps (72%) and Mid Caps (24%) and Small Caps (4%). This fund has delivered returns of 18.67% over 3-years and 12.78% over 5-years.

DSP Tax Saver Fund has an AUM of ₹10,715 crore. It currently holds a mix of Large Caps (71%) and Mid Caps (24%) and Small Caps (5%). This fund has delivered returns of 18.41% over 3-years and 12.33% over 5-years.

Investors can plan a 36-month SIP

Franklin India Taxshield Fund has an AUM of ₹5,096 crore. HDFC Taxsaver Fund has an AUM of ₹10,354 crore. This fund has delivered returns of 17.25% over 3-years and 8.86% over 5-years. Investors in ELSS can simply plan it as a 36-month SIP at the start of a financial year.

Axis Long Term Equity Fund has an AUM of ₹31,583 crore. It currently holds a mix of Large Caps (74%) and Mid Caps (22%) and Small Caps (2%). This fund has delivered returns of 10.90% over 3-years and 10.15% over 5-years.

HDFC Taxsaver Fund has an AUM of ₹10,354 crore. It currently holds Large Caps (91%), Mid Caps (7%) and Small Caps (2%). This fund has delivered returns of 17.25% over 3-years and 8.86% over 5-years.

Franklin India Taxshield Fund has an AUM of ₹5,096 crore. It currently holds Large Caps (79%), Mid Caps (16%) and Small Caps (6%). This fund has delivered returns of 17.57% over 3-years and 10.82% over 5-years.

Investors in ELSS would do well to consider completing it during the early part of the year so that their compounding tenure increases. Or, simply plan it as a 36-month SIP at the start of a financial year.

EXPRESS READ

'Google's activities harm Indian consumers'

New Delhi, PTI: Google's anti-competitive activities are harming Indian consumers and the economy by stifling "swadeshi" (indigenous) competitors, a top official of navigation firm MapMyIndia said. The CCI in October slapped a steep penalty of ₹ 1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in relation to Android mobile devices and ordered the internet major to cease and desist from various unfair business practices.

Garuda Aerospace gets RTPO approval

New Delhi: Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has received the Type Certification and RPTO (Remote Pilot Training Organisation) approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation for the indigenously designed kisan drones, the company said. DGCA Type certification is provided on the basis of the quality check and is issued after a rigorous testing process of the unmanned aerial vehicles, the company said. The kisan drones are developed for agricultural purposes.

DPIIT seeks views of different ministries on draft national retail trade policy

New Delhi, PTI: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought the views of 16 departments and ministries on its draft national retail trade policy, which is aimed at the overall development of all formats of the sector, an official said. After getting comments from all the departments and ministries, DPIIT would seek approval of the Union Cabinet on the policy. The objectives of the policy include ensuring easy and quick access to affordable credit.

After biggest correction in 6 months, markets to remain under pressure

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S equity market faced tremendous selling pressure last week and registered its biggest weekly fall in six months.

Owing to rising covid-19 fears and expectations that US Federal Reserve and other Central Bank would continue to hike benchmark interest rates to tame inflation, the local market, according to experts, is expected to remain under pressure this week as well before witnessing any recovery.

Weak global cues and fear of recession have further jolted street sentiments.

Sensex fell over 2.4% and the Nifty 50 slipped over 2.5% last week. From their lifetime highs recorded on 1 December, the two indices have shed nearly 6% each. On Friday, Sensex closed below 60K level at

59,845.29, down by 980.93 points or 1.61% while the broader Nifty 50 shed 320.55 points or 1.77% to close at 17,806.80.

"Globally markets remained volatile as it reacted to reported rise in covid cases in China and strong US GDP data," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), at Kotak Securities.

"Brent crude oil price continue to trade around the $80 per barrel mark whereas the US 10-year treasury yield saw some upward movement this week. Covid case count in China and concern about possible recession will continue to influence global equity market in the near term," Shrikant Chouhan added.

The coming week will mark the end of the calendar year and according to Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research at Religare Broking, participants will be eyeing core sector data and current account deficit on December 30. Before that, the scheduled derivatives expiry of December month contracts would keep the participants busy.

The performance of the global indices amid the rising fear of COVID cases would further add to the volatility, he added.

LIC to take a call on composite licence soon

PTI @ New Delhi

THE country's largest insurer LIC may take a call on composite licence clause after the passage of Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, sources said.

As per the proposed Bill, an applicant may apply for registration of one or more classes/sub-classes of insurance business of any category or type of insurer. However, reinsurers are prohibited from seeking registration of any other class of insurance business.

A composite licence will allow insurers to undertake general and health insurance via a single entity.

Sources said LIC would take a call on composite licence and other issues emanating out of passage of the Bill in a comprehensive manner taking into consideration Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

The Bill, with proposed amendments to the Insurance Act 1938 and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the upcoming Budget session starting next month, sources said.

If the proposal for composite insurance registration is passed, there would be change in solvency margin and capital requirement for these companies.

The proposed amendments suggest that the minimum paid up capital be specified by the IRDAI considering the size and scale of operations, class or sub-class of insurance business and the category or type of insurer.

Conte may rest Tottenham's WC players at Brentford

Tottenham Hotspur boss Antonio Conte suggested on Sunday that he might rest his World Cup players in the game at Brentford on Boxing Day that marks the Premier League's return. "For the players who played at the World Cup it's a big effort because they have never stopped and only now after one week, 10 days," he said in a preview posted on the club website.

SHREY-ASH STAND APART

Often ridiculed for their perceived weaknesses, pair combines to take visitors through in a thriller on Day 4

GOMESH S @ Chennai

"IGNORANCE is bliss." This is what Shreyas Iyer had to say when asked about the criticism on his technique against short-pitched deliveries after a 105-ball 87 in the first innings of the second Test against Bangladesh. Often, elite athletes, especially cricketers, say that they don't heed to the comments from outside, calling it white noise. Easier said than done. Especially, when it's about short-pitched bowling. Unlike other technical difficulties, there is always a fascination about how a batter handles the short-ball. It always makes for good drama on the field, irrespective of who's winning the battle. It is also something that could become a go-to tactic for any bowling attack against the said batter. Which is why if someone struggles against the short-ball, there is a very high recall value.

Since the time Shreyas made his international debut, it is something that has been associated with him. As much as he prefers to be ignorant, Shreyas didn't fail to acknowledge it and work on it. But the most interesting thing about how a batter handles the short-ball is that often all the good things about them gets overshadowed because of it. If it was Suresh Raina in the past, now it is Shreyas. In 2022, the 28-year-old leads the ODI batting chart for India, is the second most run-scorer for India in Tests, and has the third best T20I strike rate (141.15) for an Indian batter with more than 400 runs. If one were to look for impact, in his seven-Test career (six in Asia), Shreyas has come in when the team had less than 140 on the board and has taken them past 250 five times. On Sunday, he came in at No. 8 with India reeling at 71/6. He remained unbeaten and, in the company of R Ashwin, took the team across the line, completing a 2-0 sweep.

R Ashwin (L) & Shreyas Iyer celebrate as India complete clean sweep on Sunday | AFP

It's not just about the numbers though. For all the talk about "Shreyas vs short ball", his dominance against spin doesn't seem to get the same kind of significance. While Indian batters playing spin has been taken for granted in the past, at a time when most of the top-order struggle against spin, Shreyas' strength is almost invaluable for India. His Test average of 68.66 against spin is not surprising though. It is something he has done for years in first-class cricket before making his debut. Shreyas built his reputation dominating bowling attacks, especially spinners, around the country. A first-class strike rate of 78.8 is testament to that. Ask Steve O'Keefe and Nathan Lyon what a 22-year-old Shreyas did to them back in 2017. Heck, ask his batting partner on Sunday, Ashwin, who has been on the receiving end of some scathing counterattacks in Ranji Trophy. It is what he does. It is what he is incredibly good at. And the thing about Shreyas is he makes the most of what he is good at far more often than missing out due to his weaknesses. Even when the focus is on what he could not or did not do than what he has so far.

SCORECARD

Bangladesh 1st innings: 227 **India 1st innings:** 314 **Bangladesh 2nd innings:** 231 **India 2nd innings** (O/n 45/4): Axar b Mehidy 34, Unadkat lbw Shakib 13, Pant lbw Mehidy 9; Iyer n.o 29, Ashwin n.o 42; Extras: (b 1, lb 1) 2; **Total:** (7 wickets in 47 ovs) 145; **FoW:** 5-56, 6-71, 7-74; **Bowling:** Shakib 14-0-50-2, Islam 11-4-14-0, Mehidy 19-4-63-5, Taskin 1-0-4-0, Khaled 2-0-12-0.

Which brings us to Ashwin. As a spinner from the sub-continent, all through his career, the argument around him has been what he hasn't done more than what he has. Whether his record in the SENA countries, or the constant comparison with Lyon or if he would have succeeded as much if the pitches weren't as helpful in Asia, the list goes on. What has he done? He is the second-highest wicket-taker in Tests for India. He is only the second player to have scored 3000 runs and taken 400-plus wickets. He has the second-most player of the series awards (9), only two less than Muttiah Muralitharan. Not to mention his batting that has helped India win and save matches.

This Bangladesh tour has been no different. Two fifties and seven wickets in two matches even when he might not have bowled his best. It is fair to say that had Mominul Haque taken the catch when Ashwin was on 1, things could have turned out a lot different. Shreyas, too, had his share of luck through the series. But that, in no way, denies the fact that the two capitalised on it. "If Shreyas was not the Player of the Series, I would have definitely shared this award with him, but he is, so I will take this home," Ashwin said after being named Player of the match. In the end, Shreyas wasn't the player of the series. Cheteshwar Pujara was.

For a team of their strength, resources and invincible record in the subcontinent, India struggled a lot. With every match, it is getting clearer that they are heading towards a phase of transition across formats. While there are significant decisions to be made going forward, in Bangladesh and through 2022, both Shreyas and Ashwin showed why it might not be a bad thing to judge an athlete by what they have accomplished than what they couldn't.

71 India were reeling at 74/7 at one stage but Shreyas and Ashwin put on 71 runs in an unbroken 8th-wicket stand to steer India home.

222 Cheteshwar Pujara was named player of the series, making 222 runs in the series.

WTC TABLE (ONLY TOP FOUR)

Team	Mat	Win	Loss	Draw	Pts	Pct
Australia	13	9	1	3	120	76.92
***India**	**14**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**99**	**58.93**
S Africa	11	6	5	0	72	54.55
Sri Lanka	**10**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**64**	**53.33**

** India will likely feature in the final as long as they win three Tests out of the four remaining, all of them against Australia at home*

CAPTAINS' CORNER

(I'm) not going to lie, there was a lot of tension in the dressing room. It was a tough wicket to bat on, they put us under pressure in both innings.

KL Rahul, India stand-in skipper

Everyone contributed. We always knew that we had a chance... Very good Test cricket, that's what the crowds love to see.

Shakib Al Hasan, Bangladesh captain

Premier League resumes

The busy festival period begins in the EPL, some eight days after the World Cup finished. A look at some of the key games over the next two weeks...

Aston Villa vs Liverpool
Saturday, 11.00 PM

The Reds have been off the pace but a well-rested Mo Salah, Roberto Firmino and Thiago Alcantara can spur them up the table. Under new management, Villa have looked better and they will hope for similar fare at home. Currently in sixth place, Liverpool have looked shaky at the back and Villa may target that.

Leeds vs Manchester City
Thursday, 1.30 AM

Leeds have been a hit and miss team but do have creditable performances against the bigger teams. Man City, though, battered Leeds last season and will know that the likes of Erling Haaland, whose country didn't qualify for the World Cup, will be raring to go again.

Arsenal vs Newcastle
January 4, 1.15 AM

A direct clash between two teams in the top four this will be a stern test of Arsenal's CL aspirations as well as how far Newcastle have progressed. Both teams have scored bucketloads of goals but they are also two of the meanest defences in the league (nobody has conceded fewer than the 11).

Saturday's fixtures

(8.30 PM IST unless specified)

Brentford vs Tottenham 6.00 PM, Southampton vs Brighton, Leicester vs Newcastle, Crystal Palace vs Fulham, Everton vs Wolves (all at 8.30 PM), Aston Villa vs Liverpool (11.00 PM), Arsenal vs West Ham (1.30 AM on Tuesday).

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS NETWORKS

Focus is to play better every single day: Arteta

AP @ London

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta faces a challenge that dwarfs the achievement of the club's surge to the top of the Premier League table in the pre-World Cup portion of the campaign: How to keep the improbable run going?

The Gunners are hoping to pick up their league season where they left off six weeks ago when they welcome West Ham in the late Boxing Day fixture that will conclude a program of seven matches on Monday.

Arsenal were the best team in the Premier League during the first half of the season and hold a five-point advantage over Manchester City but their task will be made that much harder without talisman Gabriel Jesus, who is recovering from a knee injury he picked up in Qatar while playing for Brazil.

In contrast, West Ham, who are 16th, have only just managed to stay out of the relegation zone after a slow start that included four wins from the team's opening 15 matches, but Arteta is not taking the Hammers lightly.

"We need to do that (build momentum) on the pitch. We have talked a lot about it. We know the importance of starting strong and we play at home," Arteta said. "It's a very special day in Premier League history, it's a very special family day to play football, it's an incredible atmosphere that day and we want to make the most of it."

He also made a point of praising his young side's consistency during the opening 14 matches of the season, a stretch that includes victories over rivals Liverpool, Tottenham and Chelsea. However, sterner tests lay ahead.

"Probably the level that we showed and the consistency we showed within that level, which with the group and the age we have is not easy," Arteta said. "We showed real maturity in certain moments, especially against big opponents."

"The focus is to play better every single day, to keep growing individually, collectively and to keep deserving to win matches. That is all we can hope because football is a very tricky game."

Hockey WC trophy returns to Odisha

AGENCIES @ Bhubaneswar

AFTER travelling across 13 states and one Union territory, the men's Hockey World Cup trophy made its way back to Odisha, which is gearing up to host the sporting extravaganza next month.

Elaborate security arrangements were made at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here, where officials arrived with the cup around 11:30 am.

Jubilant scenes filled the air, as women and children donning traditional sarees danced to drumbeats.

Crowds waiting on streets near the airport cheered as the trophy was brought outside by Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey and handed over to the state's sports minister Tusharkanti Behera.

Earlier, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik took to Twitter to encourage people of the state to welcome the trophy in a grand manner.

"It is indeed a proud moment for Odisha, as we host the men's Hockey World Cup for the consecutive time. Let us all join in the state-wide Trophy Tour being planned across every district of Odisha to celebrate hockey coming home," he wrote.

Odisha is hosting the prestigious sporting tournament for the second time in a row after 2018. The matches will be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here and the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela from January 13-29.

"Nowhere in the world is there is a hockey stadium with a seating capacity of 20,000 people. Only Rourkela has built such a massive stadium for the World Cup," Tirkey said. "It (hosting the World Cup) is a proud moment for all of us," he added.

Lovlina, Nikhat cruise to finals of nationals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

LIVING up to their reputation, Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen marched into the finals of the national boxing championship in Bhopal on Sunday.

Telangana star Nikhat outwitted AIP's Shvinder Kaur 5-0 in their 50kg semifinal bout. The reigning world champion will take on Anamika in the gold medal match. Lovlina, meanwhile, also had an easy outing, beating Madhya Pradesh's Jigyasa Rajput. The Assam boxer was dominant throughout the contest and won by unanimous decision. The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist will be up against 2021 world youth champion Arundhati Choudhary of SSCB in the gold medal bout.

Simranjit Kaur, a former World Championships bronze medallist, also eased into the finals with a 5-0 win over AIP's Kros Hmangaihsangi.

Railways boxers impress

While Lovlina and Nikhat did what was expected of them, it was the boxers from Railway Sports Promotion Board's (RSPB) , the defending champions (team), who had a noteworthy day with as many as eight from the team making it to the finals. Manju Rani (48kg) was too strong for MP's Anjali Sharma. She meets Tamil Nadu's S Kalaivani in final.

Jyoti Gulia, faced a stiffer test against UP's Sonia. Jyoti made a slow start before bouncing back in the final two rounds to secure a 4-1 win. She will square off against SSCB's Sakshi in the final. The other six Railways boxers who entered the finals are Anupama (50 kg), Shikhsa (54kg), Poonam (60 kg), Shashi (63 kg), Anupama (81 kg) and Nupur (81+kg).

EXPRESS READ

Abide by contractual clauses: PCB tells players

KARACHI: The new cricket management committee of the PCB has made it clear that centrally contracted players need to abide by their contractual clauses and no breach will be tolerated in this regard. A well-informed source said that Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Shahnawaz Dahani, in particular, were reminded that it is not their job to tweet in favour of who should be Pakistan's captain. Shaheen and Haris had tweeted openly, supporting Babar as captain. But Shaheen has now deleted that tweet after the new board set-up, including chairman Najam Sethi, informed the players that their job was to focus on cricket and perform well as professionals.

Indian archers bag 9 medals in Asia Cup

SHARJAH: The Indian junior archers impressed in the Asia Cup Stage III by returning with 9 medals, including 5 gold. The biggest medal haul came from the compound section where Indian archers bagged 7 out of 8 medals, including a clean sweep in the individual women section where Pragati, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur took the top three spots. Priyansh and Ojas Deotale bagged gold and silver in the compound individual section. The Indian compound archers also topped the team events in both men's and women's sections, beating Korea en route to gold medals.

27 injured in Cairo stadium collapse

CAIRO: At least 27 people were injured on Saturday when part of a sports stadium south of Cairo collapsed during a basketball match, Egypt's health ministry said. Ministry spokesman Hossam Abdel Ghaffar said "27 people were injured, some with fractures and bleeding," adding that "most were non-life-threatening injuries". The Egyptian basketball federation suspended the match between Alexandria's Al Ittihad and Cairo's Al Ahly as first responders rushed to the Hassan Mostafa Sports Hall in the October 6 suburb.

TEST MUSIC IN THE AIR

A BUSY PERIOD OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRICKET CALENDAR SEES AUSTRALIA FACE SOUTH AFRICA IN A BOXING DAY TEST AT MELBOURNE. PAKISTAN FACE NEW ZEALAND IN THE FIRST TEST AT KARACHI. A LOOK AT THE GAMES AND WHAT'S AT STAKE...

AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA, 5.30 AM

Eyes on pitch

After the first Test at Brisbane finished inside two days, there will be renewed focus on the pitch at Melbourne. Bowlers dominated proceedings but pitches at Melbourne during this period have been relatively flat off late.

WTC points up for grabs

Both sides can still realistically finish inside the top two but it's likely to be one or the other. Australia are the favourites but if the visitors can put one over the hosts, it will help them in their quest.

Warner milestone: David Warner, who burst into the international limelight against the same opponents in a T20I debut 14 years ago, plays his 100th Test. In the middle of a rut, the southpaw will be looking to break the shackles.

PAKISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND, 10.30 AM

Pakistan recent form

Babar Azam & Co. began the home season with a very strong chance of making the WTC final. After being blanked by England, there has been a lot of consternation. Will they be fine? Nobody knows but it will be a fun ride, nonetheless.

Afridi in as chief selector

Pakistan have replied to England's 3-0 series win with a good old fashioned upheaval. As part of the process, Shahid Afridi was named chief selector.

Kiwis' mood music

It may be forgotten but they are still the defending champions. But they have faltered badly in recent times and have lost their last four Tests on the bounce. Players have also gone and they need to pick themselves up after a different period.

Our job is to do effort on the ground, perform and apply what the best we have. These things are out of the ground and our full focus is on the ground as to how to win the matches and series.

— Babar Azam, Pak skipper

I think England played an incredible style of cricket and to come over here and win three Tests and the way they did was very impressive. It seems to be working for them (England), so we will be trying to look for ways that have worked for us and hopefully put on a performance that works for our side.

— Tim Southee, NZ skipper

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Science & Technology Led Growth

LAUNCH OF MADHYA PRADESH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION POLICY 2022

by

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Chief Minister
Madhya Pradesh

- Vibrant STI Ecosystem
- Creation of State Innovation Fund
- Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Startup Culture
- Investment in DigiTech, Drone-Tech, Bio-Tech, and Green-Tech
- Good Governance++: Contactless, Faceless, digital delivery of citizen services
- Creation of knowledge and skill-based economy
- Digitisation of Traditional Knowledge

In presence of

Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat
Member, NITI Aayog, GoI

Om Prakash Sakhlecha
Minister, MSME and S&T, GoMP

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi
Vice Chairman, MPSPPC & AIGGPA

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood
Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI

Prof. Rajat Moona
Director, IIT, Gandhinagar

Dr. Akhilesh Gupta
Senior Adviser, DST, GoI

Dr. Sudheer Kumar N
Director (CBPO), ISRO, Bengaluru

Praveen Ramdas
Secretary, Vigyan Bharati

26 December, 2022 I 7:30 P.M.

Golden Jubilee Auditorium, RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal

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Department of Science & Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

PM freed from jail

Former PM Indira Gandhi was freed from Tihar Jail in 1978 after spending a week in prison for breach of privilege & contempt of Parliament

MANY FIRSTS

This was the first time that a former PM had been imprisoned for breach and sentenced to jail by the house

INDIAN EXPRESS

EXPULSION, JAIL FOR MRS GANDHI

Nobody is above law, PM tells House

THE MOVE

It was a long effort of then PM Morarji Desai who wished to punish Gandhi. The move to send her to prison & expel was favoured by 279 MPs

PROTESTS

Gandhi's arrest stirred a week of demonstrations in which 16 persons were killed, 100s injured and more than a lakh jailed. An Air India flight was also hijacked

Stories that marked CE's year

PG 3

Avin Thaliath
(@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a hamper worth ₹2,000 from ADDA 1522

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Mince pie 2) Eggnog 3)Germany

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Richa Kulshrestha
2) Asha Kumkar
3) Rama Rao

EUROPE

Call it the *Emily in Paris* effect or Indians always looking toward European countries... Europe saw a huge and sudden surge in travellers between June and August. Amsterdam, Paris, Italy and Switzerland turned out to be the top picks. "Three months ago, people went crazy. Airports were full and there were issues with managing crowds. Europe was not ready for such a crowd. There were visa delays owing both to the Covid backlog and the sudden rush," says Praachi Tantia, who runs a premium travel agency. "Places like The Netherlands and France limited the number of flights because of the surge," she adds.

INCREDIBLE INDIA

"There was a lot of interest in Madhya Pradesh this year because it is rich in wildlife, culture, and monuments. Apart from that, Varanasi also got a lot of tourists because of the Kashi-Vishwanath corridor. North-East India has been a favourite among many because of its nature. In South India, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are doing well with Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan* having suddenly enthused people about the Chola dynasty, Thanjavur and Kumbakonam."

LAKSHMI SHARATH, travel blogger

TRIPPING OVER TRAVEL

From heading to the Middle-East for the FIFA World Cup to getting a glimpse of pocket-friendly Vietnam, the year 2022 saw travel-loving Bengalureans making up for all the lost time during the lockdown. *CE* lists the top travel picks of the year

MONIKA MONALISA

LIVING out of a suitcase, seeing places very different from where you live, trying out cuisines differing from what you eat every day has a sense of unexplainable euphoria. Any traveller can vouch for this.

The year 2022 marked a special moment for travel lovers who jet set with a vengeance after staying put for over two years.

CE looks back at the year that was to tell you the spots that stole the hearts of Bengalureans.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Post August, the craze with Europe seemed to die down with the onset of fall. People wanted to travel to warmer countries, like the UAE, Thailand and Vietnam. "Vietnam became a good option because many people have been to Dubai, Singapore, and Thailand. Vietnam is also pocket-friendly. One of the biggest influences was social media," says Varanasi Soumya, a travel executive, adding that the other places in Asia, which were in demand were the Maldives and Singapore.

TAKE CARE

It's the end of the year and many people have set out for the holidays. But with the Covid scare having set in once again, here are some precautions you can take during your travel:

- Use a mask whenever you step out even if the place you are visiting has not made wearing a mask mandatory
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or with your elbow closed while coughing or sneezing
- Make sure your booster shots are up to date
- Stay updated with the changing rules related to travelling to various countries and your country
- Research your options to quarantine in case of infection

UAE

Although the UAE has been a popular place for Indians to visit, it got a huge influx of travellers not just from India but also from all over the world this year, thanks to the historic FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Indians, who form a large chunk of football crazy fans, used it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to witness the spectacle. Apart from Doha, people also travelled to the other countries in the Gulf region with the introduction of day flights to Doha from other parts of UAE. While many are making stopovers in Gulf countries to proceed to the west, Tantia says, "The US wasn't in the top list because of visa issues. Those who have applied now have a long wait."

This debut filmmaker whose work will premiere at an international festival in Rotterdam, talks about his years in Belgaum, linguistic disputes of the region & why he chose to make a film on it

A still from the film

Glimpses of Dispute

TUNIR BISWAS

BELGAUM or Belagavi, is a city that is situated at the bordering region of Karnataka and Maharashtra. With tensions coming in from both states on their right to claim it, the region is the subject of an everlasting linguistic dispute as it is home to significant populations of Kannada as well as Marathi speakers. To portray the politics of the region from an insider's perspective, **Harshad Nalawade**, hailing from Belgaum, is coming out with his debut feature film *FOLLOWER*, which will see its world premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, taking place between January 25 and February 5 in The Netherlands.

"The story is about a journalist who harbours pro-Marathi sentiments. As in, he deeply believes that Belgaum should be part of Maharashtra. There's a local leader who has really started to reignite the dispute and the protagonist puts his faith in him. But over the course of the film, the protagonist discovers that many of his beliefs are based on half-truths and a certain kind of propaganda," shares Nalawade, who has written, directed and acted (in a minor role) in the film.

As the film is inspired from existing political scenarios, Nalawade had seen the glimpses of dispute in his formative years. "In a way, my life has been part of the research material. I grew up watching many such conflicts happening. Some subtle, some very violent. I have both Kannadiga and Marathi friends, so I have grown up observing this from a distance. I watched this conflict from a removed perspective and never really fell for that cause. I was more interested in trying to understand what it is that drives people into fighting for a certain cause. In a way, I have tried to explore that through this film," says the director, who is also the co-creator and writer of the upcoming series *Soup* starring Konkona Sen Sharma and Manoj Bajpayee.

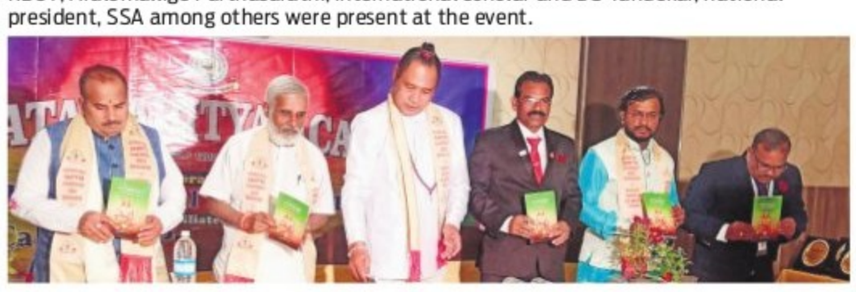
The film took about five years to finish and was initially crowd-funded. "I wrote the script around 2017-2018. We wanted to make this film but given the subject, it was difficult for us to find a producer. Back then, we were also unsure about how to go about things so we thought of crowd funding it. We shot a teaser for the film and started a campaign on the internet to fund it. Eventually, we raised some money. It wasn't enough to complete the film but it was just enough for us to shoot it. We managed to make a rough edit and started selling it to people. Eventually one of our producers saw and liked the film and decided to help us finish it," he says.

As it was his maiden cinematic project, the cast and crew have been first-timers as well. "Most of my crew were my college batchmates and all of us were new to this. Since the film was about Belgaum, we wanted actors from there itself. But as there doesn't exist a film industry in the city, we had to rely on non-professional actors and people who were acting for the first time. To stay grounded with the realities of Belgaum, the film is largely in Kannada and Marathi, and some part of it is in Dakhni Hindi, the kind we speak there," concludes Nalawade about his film, adding that he also had to drive the team to shooting locations for budgetary constraints.

CITY READ

Poet and social worker receives Sahitya Ratna at SSA conference

On December 22, Samata Sahitya Academy organised the National Sahitya Conference at Hotel Bangalore Gate. Suresh Kumar Pradhan, a poet and social worker from Gandakipur, Odisha, bagged the Sahitya Ratna Samata Award for his excellent work against social inequality. The Saint Kabir Samata Award was bagged by writer Nrusinha Nanda Mahapatra for his contributions toward the social work sector. Agus Indra Udayana, a Padma Shri winner and founder of Ashram Gandhi Puri, Indonesia was the chief guest at the conference. Suresha K Narapavi, executive member, DK International Research Foundation was the guest of honour. Yogi Devaraj Guruji, charter president, RBGY; Aralumallige Parthasarathi, international scholar and DS Tandekar, national president, SSA among others were present at the event.



New batch of nursing graduates take oath

On December 20, Aditya College of Nursing conducted the lamp lighting and oath-taking ceremony for the students of B.Sc. Nursing, and General Nursing and Midwifery. While addressing the students, chief guest Dr Deepak V Haldipur, director of ENT, Head and Neck, of Trust Well Hospital, highlighted the important role nurses play and stressed the need for nursing professionals to show empathy and patience with a clear understanding of the patient's situation and mindset. The guest of honour, Dr Ramachandra, former professor, Department of Nursing, NIMHANS, congratulated the students for choosing the noble profession and advised them to be humanitarian and get into patient care. He emphasised that teachers need to be role models for students. I Hephzibah Keren, vice principal of the college, administered the oath. Dr B A Vishwanath, chairman and Dr Priya Vishwanath, director of Aditya Group of Institutions presided over the function.

WATCH LIST

JAYA JAYA JAYA JAYA HEY (Malayalam)

Young bride Jaya wants to complete her education, but she is mocked by her new husband. Jaya shocks everyone by fighting for herself and becomes an inspiration to other married women. **Cast:** Basil Joseph, Darshana Rajendran, Aju Varghese **Watch On:** Hotstar

ARDIENTE PACIENCIA (Spanish)

Based on Antonio Skármeta's novel of the same name, The film is a Chilean romantic drama film that follows a fictional postman who becomes a real-life poet, politician, and Nobel prize winner Pablo Neruda's mail carrier. **Cast:** Andrew Bargsted, Claudio Arredondo, Vivianne Dietz **Watch On:** Netflix

REST OF THE NIGHT (Hindi)

Rest of the Night is a Hindi drama short film that narrates a tale of love and turmoil as a couple in love experiences the highs and lows of their relationship as it progresses through the harrowing stages. of life. **Cast:** Kirti Kulhari, Vishwas Kini **Watch On:** Hotstar

LIKE, SHARE AND SUBSCRIBE (Telugu)

Two travel bloggers end up in Araku to shoot some exciting footage - but what happens when they find themselves in the midst of rising tensions between the Naxals and the police? **Cast:** Dayanand Reddy, Brahmaji, Santosh Shoban, Faria Abdullah, Mime Gopi and Sudharshan, among others. **Watch On:** SonyLiv

YOUR CHRISTMAS OR MINE? (English)

Students Hayley and James are young and in love. After saying goodbye for Christmas at a London train station, they both make the same mad split-second decision to swap trains and surprise each other. **Cast:** Asa Butterfield, Cora Kirk, Daniel Mays **Watch On:** Prime Video

ROY (Malayalam)

Roy and Teena are a happily married couple with an intimate bond. One day, Teena goes missing, and Roy turns to the police. But he realises they might not be helpful since Teena used to be a suspect in a different missing person case. **Cast:** Shine Tom Chacko, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Sija Rose, Jinse Baskar **Watch On:** SonyLiv

THAMIZH PUTTHAGA THIRUVIZHA
Date :
25.12. 2022 to 01.01.2023
Everyday :
11.00 AM to 8.00 PM
at Thiruvalluvar Arangam
Bangalore Tamil Sangam,
Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, Bengaluru-560042
For details: 94837 55974
தமிழ்ப் புத்தகத் திருவிழா 2022

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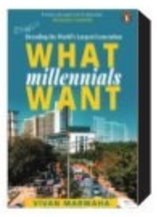
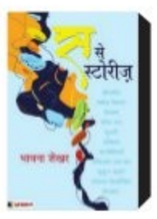
BOOK NOOK



What Millennials Want

By Vivan Marwaha

In this book, Marwaha documents the aspirations and anxieties of these young people scattered across more than 30,000 kilometers in 13 Indian states.



Sa Se Stories

By Bhavna Shekhar

The stories in this collection touch upon various aspects of life, from the turmoil of the teenage mind to the loneliness of the elderly.

Bulla Ki Jaana Main Kaun

By Zakia Mashahdi

An Urdu novel that delicately expresses the cultural diversities and conflicts of the Hindu-Muslim society.

Really, Your Highness!

By Jyoti Jafa

The book tells the story of three Princely States – Chattargadh, Pisshengunj, and Fateypur – linked by centuries of kinship and conflict.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

New Year, New Me

Join Anish Baheti in this course to better understand anger and prepare yourself for the new year.

WHERE: Virtual
WHEN: December 26 onwards
DETAILS: allevents.in

Box of Books

At a fixed price, you can take home all the books that fit in your box. This is a one-of-a-kind sale, where you can buy all the books from your favourite authors & build your own library.

WHERE: Shubh Convention, JP Nagar
WHEN: December 26 onwards, 9am
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mask Up

Mystery Rooms brings adventure to your home. The Covid Lab is a virtual escape room adventure that can be played online with multiple players from different locations.

WHERE: Virtual
WHEN: December 26 onwards, 11am
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Flutey Loops

J A Jayant and the team will be performing, as part of the ongoing Maargasheershothsava.

WHERE: Sri Surabharathi Sanskrit and Cultural Foundation, Kalyan Nagar
WHEN: December 26, 6.30pm
CALL: 9448075833

Laughter Therapy

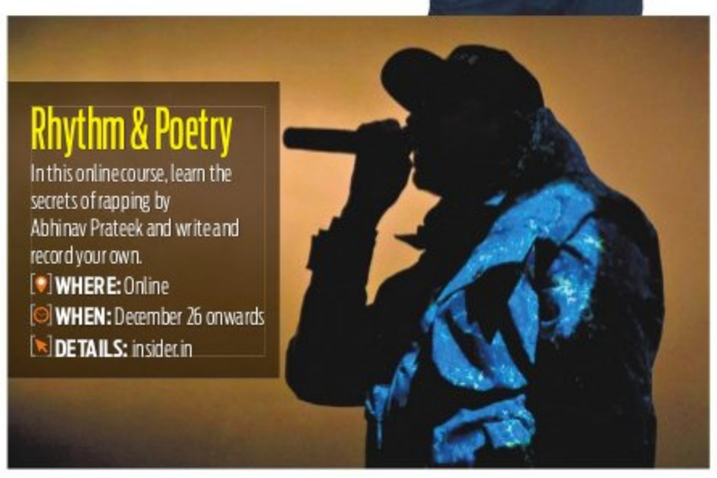
Charles The French is coming to the city with his relatable and on-the-face student humour! He is a comedian who is popular for his sketches with his friend Tada.

WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
WHEN: December 26, 5.30pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Cloud Expertise

Become an expert in Azure Cloud infrastructure and become a cloud architect through this easy-to-follow course.

WHERE: Vepsun Technologies, Soul Space Paradigm, Marathahalli
WHEN: December 26 onwards, 7pm
DETAILS: allevents.in



Rhythm & Poetry

In this online course, learn the secrets of rapping by Abhinav Prateek and write and record your own.

WHERE: Online
WHEN: December 26 onwards
DETAILS: insider.in

PEDAL POWER

Fitness influencer Milind Soman reaches Bengaluru at the end of his enviromental initiative 'Green Ride' on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

CHEN PI CHICKEN

Contributed by **Rooplekha Das,** Bengaluru, @rooplekhaa

INGREDIENTS

- **Arrowroot:** 1 cup
- **Ground ginger:** 1 tsp
- **Ground cinnamon:** 1/4 tsp
- **Coconut aminos:** 3/4 cup
- **Boneless, skinless chicken:** 1.3 Kg, cube-cut (1 inch)
- **Coconut oil:** 1/2 cup
- **Toasted sesame oil:** 1/4 cup
- **Minced fresh ginger:** 2 tbsp
- **Coconut sugar:** 1/4 cup
- **Minced fresh garlic:** 1 tbsp
- **Rice or noodles, to serve**
- **Whole dried arbol chillies:** 6-10
- **Fish sauce:** 2 tsp
- **Zest and juice of 2 navel oranges**
- **Salt to taste**
- **Chopped scallion and sesame seeds, to garnish**

METHOD

- In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the arrowroot, ground ginger, granulated garlic, ground cinnamon, and salt.
- Add the chunks of chicken, coating each piece thoroughly with the arrowroot mixture.
- In a pressure cooker, heat 1/2 cup of coconut oil for a few minutes on low flame. Carefully add the chicken to the hot oil, being sure to shake off the excess arrowroot mixture beforehand. Stir every few minutes.
- Once most of the chicken pieces are browned, add the sauce, Arbol chillies, orange zest and juice; then stir well.
- Cover the pressure cooker for 10-12 minutes on high flame. Make sure the vent is closed.
- Once it's over, quickly release the pressure valve.
- Serve the chicken with rice or noodles. Garnish with chopped scallion and sesame seeds.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

VIPARITA NAMASKAR TADASANA
(REVERSE PRAYER MOUNTAIN POSE)

This pose creates a great stretch for the shoulders. It is an intermediate position for the hands in either a standing or seated posture. It is considered a warm-up pose to prepare the body for more intense yoga poses. Opens the Anahata (heart) chakra.

STEPS

- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), placing the feet together with one inch gap. Knees completely straight.
- Keep your arms on the sides and relax your shoulders.
- After that, bend your knees a little. Now lift your hands parallel to your shoulders.
- Place your hands behind your back, fingers pointing downwards, without joining your palms.
- Breathe in, and turn your fingertips inward towards your spine and try to join your palms together and turn your fingertips upwards in Namaskar Pose.
- Keep your knees a little bent and your palms pressed strongly together.
- Make sure that your heels are together, toes extended out.
- At this point, close your eyes and focus your mind on the word Om.
- Hold the position for about 20-30 seconds or at your convenience.
- Then, slowly turn down your fingertips, release your palms and gently bring your hands down to the sides of your legs.
- Take some rest and repeat the process around 3 to 5 times.
- Finally, come back to Tadasana and relax.

BENEFITS

- It opens the abdomen, thus allowing deeper breaths.
- It helps to stretch the upper back.
- Stretches shoulder joints and pectoral muscles.
- Releases tension from your shoulders, forearms, wrists, and collarbones area.
- Beneficial in making your spine, shoulder, and arms flexible.
- Stretches the shoulder, upper back, joints, and pectoral muscles.
- Reduces stress as well as calms the mind.
- It helps to improve your posture.
- Activates appropriate Bandhas.
- Opens the chest and improves breathing and lung function.
- Reduces thyroid, digestion and emotions.
- Regular practise reduces negative emotions.
- Maintains your energy levels and metabolism.

LIMITATIONS

Those who have elbow injuries or weak ankles or knees, sciatica or severe back pain should avoid this.

People with low blood pressure or those who suffer from insomnia or headaches should avoid holding for a long time.

By N Elumalai, PhDscholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

JAGAMEMAYA: INSTANT KARMA (Kannada)

A con man tricks a grieving widow into marriage to make instant cash. However, his life turns upside down when he unearths his wife's secret.

Cast: Teja Ainampudi, Dhanya Balakrishna, Prudhvi Raj

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

CODE NAME TIRANGA (Hindi)

The story of a spy on an unfaltering and fearless mission for her nation in a race against time where sacrifice is her only choice.

Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Harrdy Sandhu

- **Watch on:** Netflix

ASUR (Bengali)

Kigan, an artist, decides to create the world's largest Durga idol at Deshbandhu Park. However, enmity between friends and bruised egos threaten to destroy his mammoth endeavour

Cast: Jeet, Abir Chatterjee, Nusrat Jahan

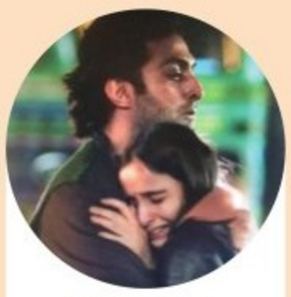
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

PAAPPAN (Malayalam)

A gripping crime investigation journey of Kerala Police confronted by an ex-cop Abraham Mathew Mathan aka Paappan. As he dives deeper into the case, destiny has an emotional tryst in store for him.

Cast: Suresh Gopi, Gokul Suresh, Neeta Pillai

- **Watch on:** ZEE5



SHIKARA (Hindi)

The story of resilience in the face of insurmountable odds. It's also the story of a love that remains unextinguished through 30 years of exile. A timeless love story in the worst of times.

Cast: Sadia Khateeb, Aadil Khan, Zain Khan Durrani

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

YASHODA (Telugu)

In a highly regimented facility housing surrogate mothers, a pregnant woman discovers that things are not as they seem.

Cast: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Unni Mukundan, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

ETHARKKUM THUNINDHAVAN (Tamil)

A lawyer turns judge, jury and executioner and goes after a gang, led by a minister's son, that threatens women with videos of them.

Cast: Suriya, Priyanka Arulmohan, Sathyaraj

- **Watch on:** Netflix

FOREIGN

THE FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER (English, series)

Following the events of 'Avengers: Endgame,' Sam Wilson/Falcon and Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier team up in a global adventure that tests their abilities – and their patience.

Cast: Anthony Mackie, Sebastian Stan, Wyatt Russell

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

SNIPER: ROGUE MISSION (English)

A sniper breaches protocol and joins forces with his former allies to expose a corrupt agent and take down a criminal organisation involved in a sex trafficking ring.

Cast: Chad Michael Collins, Ryan Robbins, Sayaka Akimoto

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

THE WITCH: PART 2 - THE OTHER ONE (Korean)

A girl wakes up in a secret laboratory and meets Kyung-hee, who is trying to protect her from a gang. When the gang finally finds the girl, they are overwhelmed by an unexpected power.

Cast: Cynthia, Min-soo Jo, Kim Da-Mi

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

HELL DOGS (Japanese)

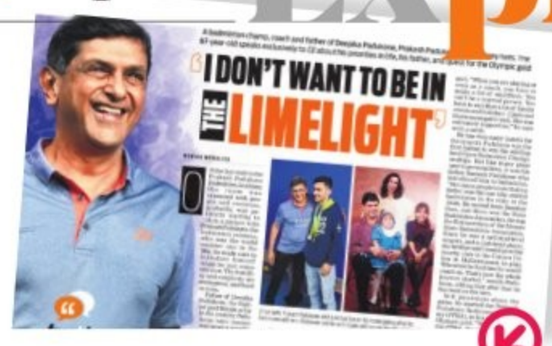
Bent on revenge, a traumatized ex-police officer must infiltrate a yakuza organisation by befriending one of the group's most unhinged members.

Cast: Jun'ichi Okada, Kentarô Sakaguchi, Mayu Matsuoka

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Netflix:	₹149 per month



GETTING CANDID WITH PRAKASH PADUKONE

IN August, veteran badminton player Prakash Padukone spoke frankly to *CE* about his stint with badminton, his expectation from the emerging talent Lakshya Sen, and his focus on bringing up talent from the grassroots level. Getting quite candid in this story published on **August 18**, Padukone recalled the time when they were worried about daughter Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone, who moved to Mumbai at the age of 18 to follow her dreams of being in the glamour world.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO HOME

As the month of September came to a close, it cast an air of nostalgia and grief over Bengalureans. It was the last few days of the iconic Samrat Restaurant as it got ready to relocate from the Chalukya Hotel, its home for 40-odd years. On the final day, the environment seemed as if everyone were donning sepia-toned glasses and memories were the most ordered item from the menu, observed *CE* in their story that was published the next day on **September 26**.

THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

In October, renowned editor and author TJS George came out with his new book, *The Dismantling of India: In 35 Portraits*. It constructs the history of India through 35 biographical portraits of personalities who have held the nation's attention, for better or for worse. For a story that was published on **October 29**, George spoke about the process of coming up with his list of 35 personalities, press freedom in modern journalism and his hope for India's future.

IN CONVERSATION WITH A CRICKETING GREAT

IN November, *CE* caught up with former Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj about the recent Bollywood biopic on her and her decision to retire from international cricket. In a story that came out on **November 10**, the 40-year-old attributed the box-office failure of *Shabhaash Mithu* to a trend of meagre reception to biopics from Indian audiences. "I'm not coming back into international cricket for sure," she said about returning to the field for Women's IPL in 2023.

THE ARC OF INFOSYS

For a story published on **December 20**, *CE* spoke with author and chairperson of Infosys Foundation Sudha Murty about her new book *The Gopi Diaries*. In an expansive conversation, Murty spoke candidly about her role in Infosys' founding, her marriage with billionaire husband Narayana Murthy and raising her children amidst money.

As Infosys turned 40, *CE* touched base with the first-generation entrepreneurs on **December 22** who look back at the risk they took to turn Bengaluru into the 'Silicon Valley of India'.

WHAT MAKE THE SHAHS CLICK

In a story published on **January 24**, actor Shefali Shah and her husband, director Vipul Shah spoke to *CE* about their series *Human* (based on a medical scam) that started streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from January 14. Shefali, who was supposed to come to the city for the launch of her restaurant Jalsa, shared how she picks her roles, working with her husband after 17 years and their secret of successfully working together as a couple.

12 STORIES THAT MARKED CE'S YEAR

WITH LIFE COMING BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC WAYS, THE YEAR 2022 HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL ONE. HERE ARE SOME HEADLINERS FROM A BUSY YEAR

2022 ROLL UP ROLL IN

BACK IN TIME

Decades after she shot for Dharmendra and Shammi Kapoor – starrer *Shilmar* (1978) in Bengaluru, legendary actor Zeenat Aman stopped by in Bengaluru once again, and went down memory lane as she reminisced about her chance entry into Bollywood, which she eventually went on to conquer. The actor who ruled the silver screen in the '70s and '80s, confided in *CE* for a story published on **July 23** that she has no regrets at all.

NOTES OF THE FATHER

Raghu Karnad, Girish Karnad's son, fondly remembered his 'Appa' in a story published on **June 9**. Raghu shared his family's decision to push the initially-reluctant Girish to get the podcast *The River Has No Fear Of Memories: Girish Karnad* recorded.

STEPPING FOOT INTO MUSICAL SUCCESS

Singer Sid Sriram, whose song Srivalli featured in the movie *Pushpa: The Rise* (Telegu, Tamil and Kannada), took the world by storm, chatted with *CE* – in a story published on **February 3** – about his musical journey, collaborations with AR Rahman, and his thoughts about his song being used extensively in reels.

DATING BACK THE CURRENCY

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, who was in the city in March, paid a visit to Rezwan Razack's Museum of Indian Paper Money. Rezwan Razack, the owner of the museum and collector, shared with *CE* in a story published on **March 28** about Das' interest in early bank notes, and the ones published before the formation of the RBI. Das was accompanied by his wife and R Gurumurthy, the regional director of RBI, Bengaluru.

CONCERNS FOR LANKA FROM THE GARDEN CITY

After painfully observing Sri Lanka's devastating economic downfall and the chain reaction of instabilities that rose from it bleed the once-a-travellers'-paradise nation dry, Lankan nationals working in Bengaluru opened up about the plight of their families back home in this story published on **April 7**.

HOPELESS AND HELPLESS
With the raging economic turmoil in the island nation, Sri Lankans in B'luru share the plight of their families back home

TRAVELLING INTO IMMERSION

As a new travel trend this year, Bengalureans had opted to live closer to local communities, understand their culture, learn more about it and volunteer with them. In a story that came out on **May 3**, *CE* found out that back during the summer, travel was more off-beat and immersive with various activities ranging from learning to brew local beer using foraged produce, to discovering the indigenous music from different states.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHANA KONASALE NANJUNDEGOWDA** S/O **NANJUNDEGOWDA** R/at Konasale Villege And Post Koppa Hobli Maddur Taluk Mandya Dist- 571419 have changed my name to **MOHAN KONASALE NANJUNDEGOWDA** vide affidavit dated: 24/12/2022 Before Notary **K.V. Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) LAKSHMI DINKAR DESHPANDE, residing at No. 702, Kempagowda Layout, 5 Cross, Katriguppe BSK 3 Stage, Bangalore-560085, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) LAKSHMI DINKAR DESHPANDE** to **(NEW NAME) LAKSHMI DINKAR** vide affidavit dated 22-12-2022, before notary, H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Roopashree Puttaveeraiah, D/o. Puttaveeraiah, R/at No.202, Shri Temple Sankalp, Near Rastrothana Hospital, Halagevaderahalli, Bangalore 560098, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from '**ROOPASHREE GURUPRASAD BHAT**' to '**ROOPASHREE PUTTAVEERAIAH**' vide affidavit dated 23.12.2022, sworn before Advocate & Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Menuka Limboo**, (Old Name), W/o. Ishan Gautam aged about 27 years, residing at No. 3B-9 Nandi Garden, 9th Phase, JP Nagar, Avalahalli, Anjanapura, Bengaluru - 560 062 have changed my name as **MENUKA LIMBOO GAUTAM** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 23.12.2022 sworn before Advocate & Notary Mahesha J. J., Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K V UJWAL VISHWANTH C/o Ramana Babu, Residing No. DS-902, Canpoy Crest Apartments, Kogillu Main Road, Maruthi Nagar, Yelhanka Bangalore North -560064, do hereby solemnly affirm that as per my Adhar card my actual and correct name is K V UJWAL VISHWANTH but in My Passport it is wrongly mentioned as KARRI VINAYAKA UJWAL VISHWANTH both names belongs to me only and henceforth my name will be **K V UJWAL VISHWANTH** only, Vide affidavit dated 22-12-22 sworn to before Advocate and Notary S R Ravikumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) ASHA VISHWANATH Residing at No. B.404, Saket Callipolis Opp. HDFC Bank, Sarapur Main Road, Doddakannalli, Bengaluru - 560 035 Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) ASHA VISHWANATH** to **(NEW NAME) ASHA SATHYANARAYANAN** Vide Affidavit dated 24.12.2022 sworn before Notary S.R. NANJUNDA SWAMY Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**PIAR CHAND CHAUDHARY** S/o **Jaswanth Singh,** R/at No. BS-10-03, Elita Promenade Opp RBI Water Tank, J.P.Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru- 560078, have changed my name to **PRAMOD CHAND CHOUDHARY** vide affidavit dated: 24/12/2022 Before Notary **H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CATHERINE SHIRIN.B.G, residing at No. 3263, 1st Floor, 13th Cross, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, have changed my Minor Son's name from **AARON SAMUEL WILSON** to **AARON SAMUEL** vide affidavit Dated 24/12/2022 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VIJAYALAKSHMI .S,** D/o Sriramulu .M, aged about 45 years, R/of GF No. 1, R.K. Mansion Site No. 18, 4th Cross, Near Bajaj Showroom Syndicate Bank Colony, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPA .S** to **VIJAYALAKSHMI S,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VIJAYALAKSHMI S** only, vide affidavit dated 21-12-2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA .J.J** at Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAME & DATE OF BIRTH

I, LATHA.R.K, is legal W/o No. JC-307787F, Rank:Ex. Sub/Nk, Name:Late M.Ramakrishna, R/at No. 69, 10th Cross, Sri Balaji Krupa Layout, R.K.Hegde Nagar, Bangalore-560077, hereby declare that my name **LATHA.P** and **LATHA.R.K** are one and same which belongs to myself only. My correct Date of Birth is 23/Nov/1975. Vide affidavit Dated 8/12/2022 sworn before Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I , DHANU KUMAR R S/o RAMAKRISHNAPPA, Residing at No 116, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Near Water tank,Aghara Layout, Yelehanka,Jakkur,Bangalore-560064, As per My Aadhar No975227441031 my correct name is DHANU KUMAR R S/o RAMAKRISHNAPPA but in My Pan card FKUPK5962G My name is wrongly mentioned as KUMAR S/o Ramachandrappa, I Further state my correct name is **DHANU KUMAR R S/o RAMAKRISHNAPPA** only, Vide affidavit dated 20-12-22 sworn to before Advocate and Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENKATA PAVAN KUMAR BOIYANA** S/o **Venkateswara Rao Boiyana** R/at No.12, Amrutha Nilaya, G Floor, Near Sharada School, Opp Balagere Road, Varthur, Bengaluru- 560087, have changed my name to **VENKATA PAVAN KUMAR BOYINA** vide affidavit dated: 24/12/2022 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUGANRAM** (OLD NAME) S/o POONA RAM aged about 35 years Residing at **No 151/1, 3rd Main Road, 8th Cross, Bangalore South , Bengaluru South Karnataka 560018.** I Have Changed My Name as **SUGANA RAM** Affidavit Dated 23/12/2022 Sworn before Notary K S Giridhar.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANASA RPRASANNA,** R/at No. 22, 1st Floor, 'Sri Virupaksheshwara Nilaya, 6th Cross, 2nd Main, Bhovipalya, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru-560086, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MANASA L** to **MANASA RPRASANNA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MANASA RPRASANNA** only, vide affidavit dated 11-03-2013, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **V NANDA KUMAR** S/o Venkatashan, Residing at No 13/4/1, 8th Cross, Poornapura,Gokula, Bengaluru North, Bangalore-560054, As per Adhar No. (560656187848) my name is V NANDA KUMAR but in My Passport No:B0783278. My name is wrongly mentioned as NANDHAKUMAR, I Further state my correct name is **V NANDA KUMAR** only, Vide affidavit dated 23-12-22 sworn to before Advocate and Notary Vanajakshi R, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEEPASHREE.B.N,** D/o Narayanaswamy.V, aged about 30 years, residing at V.V.Ramu Estate, near Anjineya Temple, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'DEEPASHREE.B.N'** to **"DIVYA.B.N"** vide Affidavit dated 17.12.2022, Sworn before Advocate and Notary N. Nagappa, Bengaluru.

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PUSHPAVATI IN *KRANTI* IS A MILLION-DOLLAR OPPORTUNITY

...says Nimika Ratnakar, who shares that even though she has done a handful of films, this song has given her a newer and wider audience

A SHARADHAA

NIMIKA Ratnakar, the Pushpavati of *Kranti* feels privileged to be sharing screen space with Challenging Star Darshan for a special song. "I'm happy, excited, and anxious, I have this mixed feeling, and equally overwhelmed with the kind of response I've been getting from fans of Darshan sir when they learned that I'll be the Pushpavati dancing with their hero. I've been bombarded with messages from the fans, and I can't explain the love I have received," says Nimika, who adds that even though she has worked as a heroine in a few films, just the poster of the song has given her more reach. "I consider it a million-dollar opportunity to be part of *Kranti*."

Sharing her experience of dancing with Darshan, Nimika says that the rehearsals helped her, and Darshan was quick in his dancing style. "He brings a lot of charisma on the big screen, and matching his speed is very difficult," says Nimika, adding, "Humility is the base of his success, and it is also his greatest weapon. That's one of the reasons behind his huge fan following, and he deserves it."

Talking about the film, Nimika says the title itself is a revolution, and the film will be a revolutionary experience too. "I consider myself lucky to be part of *Kranti*. This song, composed by Harikrishna, is a groovy number, and fans will enjoy it. I hope I get an opportunity to work with Darshan sir again," she says.

The actor, who was last seen in Prajwal Devaraj in Abbara, will begin the new year with *Mr. Bachelor,* which features her alongside Krishna.

Nimika Ratnakar

THE music album of *Kranti* is making all the right noises. The two tracks, *Dharani* and *Bombe Bombe*, are already chartbusters and a super hit among listeners. The successful run continues with the recently released, *Pushpavati*. V Harikrishna is known for his special dance numbers that become quite popular among audiences. If it was *Bassani* from Yajamana, the latest is *Pushpavati*. The composer shares that the song will be a party number, which features Darshan and Nimika Ratnakar. The composer-director asserts that the song has a proper placement in the film, and it is not just for glamour.

Penned by Yogaraj Bhat, who has also written the *Bombe Bombe* song for *Kranti,* has composer-director Harikrishna also singing the song along with Aishwarya Rangarajan. "We have made complete use of live drums for this particular track, and it will be a foot-tapping number, '' says Harikrishna. The song choreographed by dance master Ganesh from Hyderabad has around 200 dancers, and 100 juniors as part of the song, and the costumes for Darshan were designed by Nagaraj, and Nimika's wardrobe is done by Saniya Sardaria of *KGF* fame.

Kranti, produced by Shylaja Nag and B Suresha under the Media House Studio banner, is slated to release on January 26. The film consists of a host of noted actors including Ravichandran, Umashree, Mukhyamantri Chandru, Samyukta Horanad, Vainidhi Jagadish, Ravi Shankar, Raghu, and Dharmanna Kadur in pivotal roles.

'IT IS A PARTY NUMBER, WHICH GETS AN IMPORTANT PLACEMENT'

A still from the film

Bobby Deol on board Pawan Kalyan's *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*

CE FEATURES

THE makers of the Pawan Kalyan-starrer, *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* (HHVM) have announced on Saturday that Hindi actor Bobby Deol has been added to the cast of the period action entertainer. The film marks Bobby's debut in Telugu cinema. The announcement was made along with a special video featuring Bobby.

Bobby will be essaying the role of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the film and has begun filming his portions in Hyderabad. The makers also shared that a 'massive darbar' set, designed by Thota Tharani, has been constructed for the film.

Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, The film reportedly tells the story of a Robin Hood who is on a mission to steal a Kohinoor-like diamond from the Mughals. *HHVM's* previously announced cast members include Nidhhi Agerwal, Nargis Fakhri, Aditya Menon and Poojitha Ponnada.

The makers had recently announced that they have wrapped up filming the action sequences, with the next schedule of the film set to commence early next year.

Presented by AM Rathnam, *HHVM* is produced by A Dayakar Rao. MM Keeravani is composing the music while cinematography is by Gnanashekar VS and dialogues are penned by Sai Madhav Burra. The makers are yet to lock in the release date of the film.

Bobby, on the other hand, was last seen in *Love Hostel* and has *Shlok The Desi Sherlock* coming up.

'Padavi Poorva is definitely not a message-oriented film'

A still from the film
Pruthvi Shamanur

CE FEATURES

HARIPRASAD Jayanna's debut film, *Padavi Poorva*, marks the debut of Pruthvi Shamanur as a lead hero. The 19-year-old actor is one of the youngest talents in Sandalwood, and his debut film is set to release this week. Interestingly, the newbie, who is simultaneously pursuing his second-year BBA, began shooting for *Padavi Poorva* when he was studying PUC. "My passion towards acting was there since childhood, and in every movie I watched, I would usually replace myself as the hero. I did try my luck as a child artiste but many directors rejected me for my height. However, my tall frame is an advantage now," says the actor.

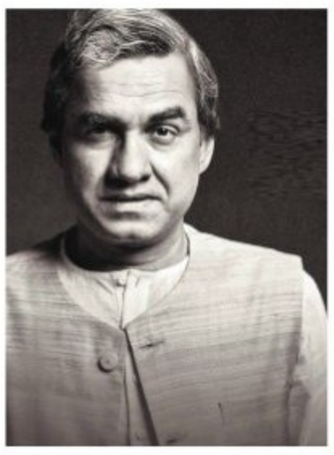
The film has his father, Ravi Shamanur investing in the project along with Yogaraj Bhat. "My father always supported my passion and never forced us to do something we don't like. He is taking a risk for the love towards his son," says a smiling Pruthvi.

Padavi Poorva is set in the 1990s, and the debut actor shares that the entire cast took some steps to get into that period. "We never carried our phones to the sets, and this allowed us to enjoy the lifestyle and atmosphere of that time. However, my role of Naveen is how I am in real life too. I am always surrounded by my friends, and I have a good bonding with them," says Pruthvi, adding "I felt the people of the 1990s spent wonderful moments, especially without the hassles of phones. Having said that, irrespective of the age, period, and time, college life is something that will always be special."

At 19, there were certain portions where he had to romance a heroine (Anjali Anish), and he explains how he went about handling such scenes. "Initially there was nervousness, but the workshops conducted by the director helped me to build a rapport with my co-actors. Since we developed a bonding, it came through in our onscreen chemistry. Thankfully, the film's timeline didn't allow the space for the modern depiction of romance," he says.

Pruthvi shares that the best thing about college life is definitely the friends made during that time. "My entire set of college friends have come to support my debut. People from my hometown in Davangere are proud of me, and this is overwhelming," he says, adding, "*Padavi Poorva* is definitely not a message-oriented film, but the kind of characters and scenes in the film will offer a lot of takeaways."

About his director Hariprasad Jayanna, Pruthvi says that the former is a picture of calm who never allowed the sets to enter panic mode. "The entire technical team, and Yogaraj Bhat have always been encouraging and helped us to give our best. With the kind of support coming from them, I felt the shooting should never end. I hope to team with all of them once again, " he signs off.



Pankaj Tripathi's first look from *Main Atal Hoon* released

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Pankaj Tripathi seems to have shapeshifted for his next. His first look, as former prime minister, from the film *Main Atal Hoon* was released on the late politico's birth anniversary on Christmas. Pankaj, with prosthetics on, looks uncannily similar to the politician. The film, directed by National Award winner Ravi Jadhav, will release in December next year.

Pankaj is seen in a dhoti-kurta and a jacket with prosthetics to resemble Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A video clip introduces him as a PM, poet, statesman and a gentleman.

Sharing his first look pictures from the film on Instagram, Pankaj Tripathi wrote in Hindi, "I know that it is necessary for me to work on my personality with restraint in order to make 'Atal' ji's personality come true on screen. I have firm faith that I will be able to do justice to my new role with enthusiasm and morale.

He shared a video montage as well and wrote in Hindi, "I have got this opportunity to portray this rare personality on screen. I am emotional and grateful." Main Atal Hoon is presented by Bhanushali Studios Limited and Legend Studios. It is produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Sandeep Singh, Sam Khan and Kamlesh Bhanushali and co-produced by Zeeshan Ahmad and Shivv Sharma. It is written by Utkarsh Naithani and has music by Salim Sulaiman, with lyrics by Sameer. Sonu Nigam has sung the songs for the film.

When it comes to other projects, Pankaj will be seen next in Anurag Basu's *Metro... In Dino.*

Gal Gadot to return to the *Fast & Furious* franchise

CE FEATURES

ACCORDING to reports, Gal Gadot is all set to reprise her role as Gisele in the upcoming *Fast and Furious* film. The reports emerge as the actor's future as *Wonder Woman* in the DC universe seems to have come to an end. The newly appointed heads of DC content, James Gunn and Peter Safran, recently revealed that they will not be going forward with Patty Jenkins and Gal Gadot's vision of the iconic superhero as part of their plans for the future.

The tenth instalment in the *Fast & Furious* franchise is scheduled to hit theatres in May 2023. While it was announced that Fast 10 will be the last chapter in the ongoing franchise, the upcoming film will bring back the principal cast for a proper sendoff. Gal Gadot's character was first introduced in the fourth instalment in the franchise which was released in 2009. The character was eventually killed in the sixth film in Fast & Furious 6 which was released in 2013.

Gal Gadot coming back after being killed off is not new to the franchise, Han Lue, played by Sun Kang was also killed in Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift before being revived in 2009's Fast & Furious. It was earlier reported that Jason Momoa will appear in the upcoming Fast X as the primary antagonist. Brie Larson, known for playing Captain Marvel in the MCU is also slated to join the franchise. The film is directed by Louis Leterrier who is best known for making films like *Transporter 1 & 2, The Incredible Hulk,* and *Now You See Me.* The film is currently scheduled to release on 9 April 2023.